THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL

A LARGE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE, AND VALUABLE READING FOR THE FAMILY.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY:

Per Year, (if in advance) $2 00
In Clubs of Twenty $1 25

One copy gratis to the getter-up of the Club.

The money must always accompany the order, and no deviation from these terms will be allowed.

☞ Postmasters are requested to act as Agents.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscriptions, &c., address

COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

THE LATE CONVENTION.

The Recognition of God in the Constitution.

Sermon by Rev. F. A. Noble, Pastor of Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

Rev. F. A. Noble delivered an eloquent and logical discourse to his congregation of the Third Presbyterian Church Sunday morning, on the subject of the recognition of God in the Federal Constitution. We publish the sermon entire, and know that it will command an attentive perusal:

"For the kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the governor among the nations."—Psalm xxii. 28.

And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The Lord liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal, they shall be built up in the midst of my people. But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the Lord."—Jer. xii. 16-17.

"Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord."—Ps. xxxiii. 12.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."—Prov. xiv. 34.

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted."—Is. xxxii.

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."—Ps. ix. 17.

I yield to no man in the sincerity and earnestness of my convictions that God rules in all human affairs; and that the abiding prosperity and happiness of a people are conditioned upon substantial obedience to the Divine will. And I have selected, for our contemplation this morning, passages which seem to me to be amongst the very strongest in the Bible. In assertions of this broad and vital fact. As will be seen, they are presented under a variety of aspects, but in the truth which they declare, in the obligation which they assert, in the rewards which they promise, in the calamities which they threaten—they all alike dwell on the point of the acknowledged identification of national well-being with national subservience to the purposes and requirements of God. These passages locate supreme governmental power in the Divine will. He stands forth crowned as the august and rightful Sovereign of all the tribes and kindreds and kingdoms of the earth. They associate blessedness as the result of loyalty to God, exaltation with righteousness. Those who forget and refuse to serve Him, they menace with woes which shall destroy and waste them into utter annihilation. Indeed, it is difficult to conceive how language expressive of God's control over nations, and of their joy or sorrow, success or defeat, which shall surely wait upon the following, or rejection of Him in the one or the other, could be more clear and full and emphatic. The sole Author of all existences, the legitimate Governor of all successions and waves, and the Leader of all peoples, the final Judge of all actions, the Scripture from beginning to end sustains and reveals Him as the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. And He not only has this authority, but He has exercised it. It is easy to show that in every nation there may arise an influence which even these indirect references to a Divine sovereign may have an important service to render to mankind. And in such an emergency it would be a sad reflection for good men to realise that their own demonstrations of the claims of God upon the nations had helped to bring about the very disaster which the sacredness of religion forbids. Now, the nation is a Divine institution, and the recognition of it in the very organic law which we ordain for us in the Constitution is an acknowledgment by no manner of sophistry to be ignored or evaded. And the fact that the Bible and the Sabbath who has a right to control nations, and whose commands it is for their own welfare that they should obey, and to whom they are responsible for disobedience, and it may be, as I shall have occasion to say later, that such a recognition is in any sense defective or wrong, is to deny God. So in regard to the fact of an oath. It has been said that "an oath, of the proper form and in the proper spirit, by the Constitution, is foreseen as it contains no "expressed appeal to God." Now, the whole of the Amendments have been indorsed by the Religious Amendment Association, and it is evident from that the proviso which declares that *"no religious test* shall ever be required as a qualification for office of any person holding any office or public trust under the United States" absolutely prohibits the requirement of an appeal to God in the oath. Is not the "constitutional oath" to the law platform of a solemn promise." But what is an oath? An oath, as I find it defined, "is a solemn appeal to the Supreme Being for the truth of what is said by a person who believes in the existence of the Supreme Being and in a future state of rewards and punishments according to the form which will bind his conscience most." The very idea of an oath, therefore involves an appeal to God. The appeal is the essence and sanctification of it. And every man, who enters into the service of the government, and every man who pays tribute to the government, is forced in behalf of the government to make an appeal to the judgment of God. And note day passes in which the government does not require some form of oath from some of its officers, and recognition of the sovereignty of God. So, if we have not the acknowledgment in the life of the institution. And things are better than words.

Substantially, whether definitely recognized or not, is the underlying and informing spirit of the Constitution, as it is of all the leading laws and constitutions and states of the land. And right here there are a good many things which we ought to be concerned about. Men are wont to speak of the Constitution as the charter of our rights. It is not the charter of our rights at all. Rights are born with man, and each man has them direct from God. Constitutions and laws are simply for the protection of our rights. The Constitution is the measure of the degree of freedom which we are willing to surrender his rights for the public good. As it is also the measure of compensation for the way of protection which he is to receive at home and abroad. With this general government pledges itself to afford to each individual who reposes under its guardianship. Government, therefore, is legitimately limited in the exercise of its own express terms. And rights and duties and privileges and obligations to which it makes no reference, may exist and do exist unimpaired. And Christianity and the principles and precepts of the Christian religion are amongst the things which are left in full force by the Constitution as it was granted by this very silence of the Constitution. "It has been sometimes concluded," says a writer quoted by Morris in his valuable work on the "Christian Life and Character of the Civil Institutions of the United States," "that Christianity cannot have any direct connection with the Constitution of the United States on the ground that the latter is a compact on a religious basis. But when the whole condition of the country and the genius of its rights and by which it endeavors to regulate its doctrines. And, notwithstanding the spurious principles of Government by corrupt statesmen, the beast is as true as it is beautiful. The power of the throne has been shared by the common law did not recognise Christianity as lying at its foundations, in many years it was extensively administered by those who held its ecclesiastical dignities. It now remains to be considered how far the Constitution of the United States is consistent with the Christian Sabbath, and whether correct principles and maxims of Christianity penetrate and influence the Constitution. The Sabbath of this Union. When the attempt is made, however, to connect the general theory of the government of God which will neigh all knowledge of the specific duties of life, e.g., questions and divisions at once arise. For while some insist with all their might, on one method of expressing reverence and dependence and obligation, others oppose; and insist with equal zeal on another. And in the end comprising the same end. This is illustrated in the present effort to secure the recognition of God in the Constitution. Who knows in this premise that this nation must be brought into conformity with God, and that because of it the land responsive to the throbbings of the Divine equity and holiness—or else its ultimate overthrow and speedy ruin is certain. But how? In what most satisfactory manner can this be done? It is made manifest that God is the acknowledged Lord of this land? An association composed largely of men entirely devoted to the cause, and their character, some of them of high position in church and state, and all of them of large influence—while all are noted for their Christian patriotism, think the result can be best secured by an acknowledgment in the preamble of the nation that the name of the Lord and of His Christ is to be recognised in the forefront of our organic law. They think, indeed, that whatever else we do we still wanting and acceptable without such an acknowledgment until this omission of the name of God from the Constitution of the United States. And it is one to fact to say that this is not a new question. The Constitutional Government, in its existing form, there have been those who deeply regretted the absence of all reference to the Christian religion in the national compact. In an "Address of the First Presbyterian Synod of Philadelphia to the Synod of New Hampshire," bearing date "Newburyport, October 2, 1788," to George Washington, President of the United States, congratulating him on his recent "unanimous election to the highest office on earth," occurs the following language: "Among those (defects in the original plan of the government) we regret the want of a religious test, that grand engine of persecution in every tyrant's hand; but we should not have thought of this defect if we have seen some *explicit* acknowledgment of God in the Constitution, by which those whom he has sent, *inserted* somewhere in the Magna Charta of our country." Washington's reply to this address is interesting, as it is also exceedingly pertinent to this discussion. "The religious sentiments you have expressed (as a part of the address not quoted) "do great honor to the patriotism of our country, and must afford the purest consolation to every friend of religion, desire their accomplishment by such means and in such a manner as may appear best to your fellow-men. And here, I am persuaded, you will permit me to observe that the path of true religion is always the path of true virtue, and that the two are inseparably united. To this consideration we ought to ascribe the absence of any regulations respecting religion from the Magna Charta of our country," &c. The guiding principle in the formation of the Constitution, as it is also the most important object, is, perhaps, more properly, committed. It will be proper also to instruct the legislature, and to claim the devious. And in the progress of morality and science to which our government will, in every further development, more evidently expect the advancement of true religion and the extension of its principles. The only was the question, in definite form, brought before the public. The unanimous very important differences cropped out as to the interpretation of its provisions. And the solution of to-day is but the echo of dissatisfaction that was felt and expressed by good men thirty years ago. And the progress of the spiritual change in the conditions of the problem, and the necessity for amendment is not greater now, when Roman Catholicism is alarming men, than it was when French infidelity was calling into question the Bible. And the arguments for and against the amendment are not, in substance, any other than what they were when the Presbytery wrote and the President answered. For one, therefore, I must take issue with the Fathers of his Country against the Newburyport, distinguished men though they were, and the Constitution, as it is, is actually better than it would be in the shape to which our judges and statesmen would commit it if they could. But to begin with:

This proposed change is unnecessary. Of course this is one of the controverted points, since, if all could see with equal clearness that no change was needed, there would be no attempt to advocate and urge the measure. In support and illustration of the contrary, then, these three important facts may be cited:

1. In the first place there are in the Constitution, as it is, many and unmistakable references to Christian customs and duties which strongly imply the national recognition of the sovereignty of God. Of these I may mention particularly its acknowledgment of the obligation of Sabbath observance, and its requirement of an oath as a qualification for office. And these provisions have a value which must not be underrated or underestimated. For while I would not lay all the stress upon them which some do, I would be inclined to, since they are not positive but only incidental considerations, they are of the greater value as indicating the habitual tone of the nation in its living God, still less would I be one to join in the task of explaining them away into insignificance, or of depreciating them of all solemnity or import. It is easier to foresee the difficulties that may arise in which even these indirect references to a Divine sovereign may have an important service to render to mankind. And in such an emergency it would be a sad reflection for good men to realise that their own demonstrations of the claims of God upon the nations had helped to bring about the very disaster which the sacredness of religion forbids. Now, the nation is a Divine institution, and the recognition of it in the very organic law which we ordain for us in the Constitution is an acknowledgment by no manner of sophistry to be ignored or evaded. And the fact that the Bible and the Sabbath who has a right to control nations, and whose commands it is for their own welfare that they should obey, and to whom they are responsible for disobedience, and it may be, as I shall have occasion to say later, that such a recognition is in any sense defective or wrong, is to deny God. So in regard to the fact of an oath. It has been said that "an oath, of the proper form and in the proper spirit, by the Constitution, is foreseen as it contains no "expressed appeal to God." Now, the whole of the Amendments have been indorsed by the Religious Amendment Association, and it is evident from that the proviso which declares that *"no religious test* shall ever be required as a qualification for office of any person holding any office or public trust under the United States" absolutely prohibits the requirement of an appeal to God in the oath. Is not the "constitutional oath" to the law platform of a solemn promise." But what is an oath? An oath, as I find it defined, "is a solemn appeal to the Supreme Being for the truth of what is said by a person who believes in the existence of the Supreme Being and in a future state of rewards and punishments according to the form which will bind his conscience most." The very idea of an oath, therefore involves an appeal to God. The appeal is the essence and sanctification of it. And every man, who enters into the service of the government, and every man who pays tribute to the government, is forced in behalf of the government to make an appeal to the judgment of God. And note day passes in which the government does not require some form of oath from some of its officers, and recognition of the sovereignty of God. So, if we have not the acknowledgment in the life of the institution. And things are better than words.

Substantially, whether definitely recognized or not, is the underlying and informing spirit of the Constitution, as it is of all the leading laws and constitutions and states of the land. And right here there are a good many things which we ought to be concerned about. Men are wont to speak of the Constitution as the charter of our rights. It is not the charter of our rights at all. Rights are born with man, and each man has them direct from God. Constitutions and laws are simply for the protection of our rights. The Constitution is the measure of the degree of freedom which we are willing to surrender his rights for the public good. As it is also the measure of compensation for the way of protection which he is to receive at home and abroad. With this general government pledges itself to afford to each individual who reposes under its guardianship. Government, therefore, is legitimately limited in the exercise of its own express terms. And rights and duties and privileges and obligations to which it makes no reference, may exist and do exist unimpaired. And Christianity and the principles and precepts of the Christian religion are amongst the things which are left in full force by the Constitution as it was granted by this very silence of the Constitution. "It has been sometimes concluded," says a writer quoted by Morris in his valuable work fronting each other in the hustings and voting on the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ; and particularly when the Protestant and Catholic elements of the land might be so easily kindled into a flame. Men talk glibly of a *"religious war"* in this connection; and they say they *"are ready for the conflict,"* and that "if it is to come, the sooner it comes the better." And such sentiments, too, win "applause." For one I should prefer not to see this nation shaken from center to circumference by any such dread convulsion.

But the temper of the times is clearly against any such measure. Incapable of being put into a form that will do all that is required of it, and at the same time satisfy all who are parties to this movement, and impossible to be carried through all the stages necessary to its adoption and validity, the day in my judgment is past, and long before they would be ever known to the world. The title of his work will be *Les Français en Amérique*; and the object of Mr. Baird's investigations will be to make known, from original documents, private journals and manuscripts, a true history of the French in the New World, the events of the French expedition, under Ribaut, to Florida, in 1562, and the settlement, by Gourgues, in 1567, and the part they took in the discovery of the Mississippi Valley.

Mr. Albright, Superintendent of the Mt. Joy division of the Pennsylvania canal, residing near Bainbridge, Lancaster county, went in a buggy to the canal Saturday evening, and an hour after his return home. The day was very cold, and his physicians ascribe his sudden death to it.

Joshua Douglass, of Meadville, has made a conveyance to the President and Trustees of Allegheny College of several lots in said city, with a building thereon, now known as the College Bonding Hall.

The debt of Venango county is stated to be $1,000.

The number of deaths in Philadelphia during the year 1869 was 14,229.

The Lycoming County Bar Association held their third annual dinner at Williamsport on Saturday evening last.

The Philadelphia *Press* says: "A rumor comes from the Fourth Ward that at the next election the Democracy will run a negro alderman, in the hope to get the vote of the colored people. This game is to be blocked by the Republicans by the nomination of a colored man for the same office. Therefore, in any event, the Fourth Ward will, it appears, elect a darkey. Verily, the world moves."

There is a history connected with everything, if somebody will take the trouble to hunt up, arrange, and publish it. Cases of spurious and infantile are now epidemic in California, and a writer in one of the papers gives the annexed information on that subject. The earliest recorded occurrences of infantile were in the years 1414, 1414, 1427, and 1438. This last was general throughout Italy. It appeared again in 1510, 1511, 1528, and 1529. Then an epidemic catarrh of the autumn of 1675 was called the influenza of Hoffman. The next time the disease appeared it was of severe and changeable weather, at the beginning of 1729, and traversed the whole of Europe. It was also in the autumn, and the commencement of the winter. It raged in Italy, Germany, France, and Spain. It were winter, northeast winds having prevailed for nearly five months. The epidemic of 1782 prevailed in the autumn and winter. It was at the months of February and July. The catarrh epidemic of 1803 was in the autumn, and the disease of the same kind, was not confined to the human species, but affected the lower animals. Horses were affected with them. Epidemic catarrhs occurred from 1772 to 1803 inclusively. In 1782, and 1803, in July, 1803, an epidemic influenza prevailed all over the New England States, extending as far south as Virginia, and west beyond the Lakes. In 1827 the disease prevailed epidemically throughout the Mississippi Valley.

The fatality attending blue neckties in Havana has been sadly shown, but the danger of playing chess with a man in one has not been understood. From Madrid the news comes of the arrival, among a batch of political prisoners, of one Senor Molinez, a peaceable gentleman of property, who had the misfortune to be forcibly embarked at Havana he had spent at the palace, playing chess with General Rodas, a wheelhanded gentleman with revolutionary obstinacy. He bade him good night with that friendly feeling which always exists between chess players towards his vanquished opponent, and went to his lodgings. Next day he was arrested by official called upon him with the information that he must leave immediately for Spain. He made no remonstrance, but on the way to the opening of the gateways of Indies and the crumbling of the ancient prejudices of Japan are made occasions for rejoicing throughout the Christian world. But while others are erroneously yielding their scruples to us shall we ourselves not be found in the rear of the Christian advance? And while we are using commerce and diplomacy and every art to open a way for the gospel in the remotest parts of the earth, shall we shrink from the logic of our own evidences and principles? Shall we be afraid to confess of what they do not believe? For the right to urge our views on others, whether at home or abroad, we must be willing to accept the minimum of profession if He can have the maximum of performance. Were the name of God written in the forefront and repeated in every clause of the Constitution, and were it to be made the preface of every law, and were it printed in letters of gold on the corner-stone of every public building, and were it woven into a chaplet and bound about the brow of the Goddess of Liberty, who figures from one end of the land to the other, as the presiding genius of the public act of justice, one righteous statute framed for the good of men would be worth it all as a manifestation of the Divine favor. You are doubtless familiar with the story of the rude artist, who drew the picture of a ship, and in order to make it plain to the passers-by, wrote under it, "This is a ship." And the people laughed at the simplicity of the thing, but they understood it. And so, I would not see imperilled; as I am sure it would be imperilled, if there were to be any measure which would be construed by all the enemies of the voluntary system as an attempt to establish religion by law, or to give it a civil power. And especially should I deplore such a step at this time, when there are so many voices are heard crying out against the corruption which has grown up out of Church and State, and are pressing for the very reforms and thrills like the burning words of our own Patrick Henry, when he said, "I will not be as the Spanish Cortes to utter protested against such enormous expenditure of debt, profligate waste of the public treasury. I believe we have done it under the influence of the Divine Being, and I will not be ashamed to express my sentiments openly before the public treasury. I believe we have done it under the influence of the Divine Being, and I will not be ashamed to express my sentiments openly before the public treasury. I believe we have done to demonstrate the possibility of this on such an ample scale. And the sublimity of the adoption of the Constitution, and the glory of the Government under the Constitution, like the Sabbath Government is made *for man*, therefore it is God's gift and assurance of opportunity to man. And the best Government that which has the most direct tendency to free and lifting them up into manhood and power. In acknowledging and glorifying God, in a way to make it clear to all the world that God is our Lord. All what we want is individual liberty and individual responsibility to God. And just in proportion as we put Divine purity into the individual heart, and so insure it in the public heart, in the same proportion we put Divine love into our customs, and Divine life into our laws. And the more we bring our laws, shall we secure the favor of Him whose kindness is better than life, and whose favor our sure and safe defense, in the future as in the past, against all our foes. For it is not by force that God helps us. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

There is a fatality connected with the name of Jefferson. I myself, indeed, have labored to prove that this is a Christian nation—in its history, in its principles, in its laws, and in its spirit—distinctly Christian.—But do majorities, because they happen to be such, constitute legislators to ride roughshod over the convictions of minorities? This question is not to be settled by the votes of men in a legislature, or by the votes of a people. Does the truth of God depend upon the votes of men? Are the principles of right to be settled by the votes of men? Are the principles of right to be settled by the votes of men? Are the principles of right to be settled by

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1870.

TAXATION is always a subject of complaint, and every community imagines that its taxes are oppressively high and greater than those of any other. A great many persons complain of high taxes in Pittsburgh, when the fact is they are very low when compared with other less favored communities. The city levy in Cleveland, exclusive of schools, for 1869, was $880,036, while the levy in Pittsburgh, exclusive of schools, was $479,581—a difference in favor of Pittsburgh of $400,455, or nearly the whole amount of its levy. When it is considered that Pittsburgh has a much larger population than Cleveland, it will be seen the taxation in this city is not so oppressively high, after all.

THE project for a Northern Ohio Fair Association begins to assume substantial form. At a late meeting in Cleveland a large amount of the stock was subscribed by wealthy and influential citizens of that city and the neighboring lake counties, and the counties in the interior of the Northern tier send words of encouragement. The Association have established an office at 137 Superior street, Cleveland, where books are open for subscription of stock. Local agencies are being established in all the counties in Northern Ohio, and correspondence is solicited from all who wish to co-operate with the Association. S. D. HARRIS, of the *Ohio Farmer*, is Secretary of the Association.

THE result of the New Hampshire election is an administration triumph, possessing something like peculiar significance, occurring as it did almost on the very commencement of the second year of General GRANT's term. The presence of Mr. DAWES on the stump there, charged with a message from the President to the people of the State, renewing to them the pledge of fidelity and economy, caused the result to be viewed in advance as the verdict of New Hampshire on General GRANT's administration. The result is an answer to say tut a false friends and open enemies alike. The people of New Hampshire are an intelligent people. They speak and act with deliberation and from strong convictions. They would not fear to condemn Gen. GRANT did they so think; but they saw not that in his administration they so incline them. On the contrary, on reviewing the first year of his administration, they were convinced that he was deserving of the continued support and confidence they gave him at the Presidential election. And in recording their verdict the people of New Hampshire have uttered the deliberate sentiment of all the States that voted for Gen. GRANT.

IN several obituary notices of the Rev Dr. MCCLINTOCK, whose death took place a few days ago, we have been surprised to see no mention made of the connection of that gentleman with the anti-slavery conflict. And yet he was not only one of the most conspicuous and powerful of the champions of division on the side of the Methodist Church North, but in his own person suffered deeply for his active sympathy with the oppressed race. For a number of years Dr. MCCLINTOCK was Professor in Dickinson College at Carlisle in this State. He was there when the famous negro riot occurred, occasioned by an attempt of some slaveholders from Maryland to seize and carry away some of their fugitive property, in accordance with the provisions of the Fugitive Slave law. An alarm was sounded, and the ambulatory chairman of the college assembled in the street, near the railroad depot, which happened to be in the neighborhood of the college. In the conflict which ensued one of the slave-owners, a Mr. KENNEDY, we believe, was killed. Dr. MCCLINTOCK was certainly on the scene, and, having been charged with aiding and abetting those who resisted the execution of the law, he was tried for the alleged offense. He was cleared. If he had not done what he was charged with doing, his innocence could not be ascribed to any respect for the notorious law. Dr. MCCLINTOCK was a good scholar and a sound theologian. He was long the editor of the *Methodist Quarterly*. He filled several distinguished positions in his church.

THE Prime Minister of the present Pope is as widely known as his Holiness himself. In navigating the Church through the storm in the midst of which he is now involved he overwhelm it. Cardinal GIACOMO ANTONELLI commonly gets credit for having applied those needful qualities in which the Pope is said to be deficient. The Pope is simple-minded, soft-hearted and easily imposed upon. ANTONELLI is astute, penetrating, and far seeing, with as "good a heart as it was possible to make out of brains," though indeed many say that he has no heart at all. He is reported to be so devoted to this world as to require reminding now and then that there is another. Certainly, he has no religion to boast of, and he keeps a sharp eye upon the temporal concerns of the church. His favorite study is mineralogy and he has one of the finest collections in the world. His facilities for forming such a cabinet are, of course, admirable, as the representatives of the antichristian all over the world constantly pay their respects to the great man by sending him specimens. We have been led to mention his Eminence by meeting with the following letter which he has lately addressed to the Bishop of Nicaragua. The epistle needs no comment, and in connection with the discussion of the school question in this country it is decidedly interesting:

"We have lately been informed here that an attempt has be n made to change the order of things hitherto existing in Nicaragua, by establishing a programme in which are enunciated 'freedom of education and of worship,' and all those principles are not only contrary to the laws of God and of the Church, but even to those of nature itself, which established by the Holy See and that republic. Although we do not doubt that your zeal and pastoral reverend lordship will do all in your power against such a scandalous proselytism, we do not wish to be still we deem it by no means superfluous to stimulate your well known zeal for the clergy and above all the cruzies, do their duty.

G. CARDINAL ANTONELLI."

AMONG the new sciences sociology or social science is almost monthly becoming more prominent in the thoughts of men. There is an organization known as the American Association which is devoted to the consideration and discussion of its problems. Until quite recently no interest in these problems has been more pronounced in New York and New England than in regions farther West. Of course no one means this part of the Atlantic, for in Europe and especially in England, since a good many years, social science has been the subject of earnest inquiry and of almost countless lectures, tracts and books. Its problems have there proved to be the very concern which many people of leisure, studious habits and benevolent hearts needed to enable them to concentrate their wasting energies and miscellaneous information upon the welfare and improvement of society. In consequence, when the excessive number of persons of this class who took up the subject, it used to be said that a spirit of dilettanteism had been introduced into the convention held for the promotion of the science. On this side of the water no such evil needs be feared. At least we are not called upon yet to chronicle its appearance, but to report the formation of "a society in Philadelphia in affiliation with the American Association, and composed of some of the most intelligent, respected and active citizens." We find mention made of this Philadelphia society in connection with mention of course of lectures now being given from the chair of Political Economy in the University of Pennsylvania, founded and endowed by Mr. STEPHEN COLWELL. We believe that the purpose of the founder of this professorship was to give a more decidedly practical direction to the subject of political economy, and to make it subservient to the elucidation of sociological questions. The lecturer is the Rev. Prof. J. H. MCILVAINE, of Princeton College, who was so unconscious in the amendment convention which met in Pittsburgh last week. The lectures have thus far been wisely by large audiences and have excited great interest in the subject. It is confidently expected that the effect of these lectures and of the proceedings of the society whose deliberations are assisted by them, will be to make excellent preparation for the general meeting of the American Association in Philadelphia next fall.

Quite a sensation has been created in business circles of Milwaukee, by the report that Mr. George J. Hart, of the firm of Oliver & Hart, of that city, had absconded from Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was conducting a pork-packing establishment for Balcher & Co., of Philadelphia, carrying with him from $50,000 to $100,000 belonging to that firm.

FIGUE INSPECTOR—COL. LOGAN.

The following letter from Gov. GRARY announcing the appointment of Col. LOGAN, of Westmoreland, to the office of Flour Inspector, explains itself and fully answers the questions and misrepresentations in the columns of the paper to the editors of which it is addressed:

HARRISBURG, Pa. March 7, 1870.

Messrs. Penniman, Reed & Co., Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

GENTLEMEN—My attention has been called to an article in your paper of the 5th inst., under the caption of "Query," in which the following question is asked of me:

"*Was, or was not, said W. W. Logan to the military service of the so called Confederacy—in officer or soldier in the rebel army?*"

I unhesitatingly and emphatically answer—*He was not.*

At the time of the breaking out of the rebellion, Mr. Logan was residing in Louisiana, and, in common with other citizens of Northern birth, suffered incredible persecutions, mingled with offers of position in the rebel army, and threats if they were refused. Mr. Logan sacrificed all his property and business there, and returned to the North, having made his way through the rebel lines, enduring great hardships, and running imminent risk of losing his life in the undertaking. Soon afterward he joined my command in Northern Virginia, and in connection with my staff in the Quartermaster's Department, rendered good and efficient service during those memorable campaigns.

His brother, Dr. Samuel Logan, was Assistant Surgeon of the Twenty-eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers. Six others of his relatives also served during the war, some of whom were killed in battle, and others died in the service.

It is not my custom to reply to newspaper assault, but in this case I do for another what I would not do for myself, as it devolved upon me, as a good citizen and a brave man should be relieved from the foul aspersion attempted to be cast upon him.

I am, gentlemen, with high respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN W. GEARY.

THE CUBAN CAUSE.

Interesting Statements by Gen. Quesada of the Insurgent Operations.

General Quesada, in his report to the Cuban Junta at New York, detailing recent operations in Cuba, submits a table showing the number and kinds of troops in the patriot service. How reliable it is, no one can safely say; but we think it may be taken with considerable allowance for the exaggerated spirit so characteristic of the Spanish-American race when treating of military matters. According to Quesada the total force in the three departments into which the patriots have divided the island, is sixty-one thousand six hundred and ninety-three. This includes officers and men, and comprises an efficient and essential force to belligerency, no matter how Senator Sumner argues to the contrary. The great deficiency of the revolutionists, however, is in their ammunition, arms and munition. To equip for the field the sixty thousand men enlisted in the cause, they have but 18,000 muskets and rifles, 3,598 pistols, 13 pieces of artillery, 2,200 lances, and 634 sabres; but in addition, 60,075 machetes—a slight improvement on the aboriginal tomahawk—the appearance of which is essential to be despised in close quarters, in the hands of those accustomed to their use. From this account it is clear—assuming it to be reliable—that but two things are needed to free the Cubans from Spanish rule. The first is the money to buy arms from abroad; the second is the means to get them to and on the Island. In fact the wants of the Cubans may be summed up in the necessity for a seaport, easily accessible to their interior, which would render the Spanish cruisers are more effective in embarrassing the patriots than the volunteers and regulars on the Island.

THE women succeeded in voting at Hyde Park, Massachusetts, on Monday last at the town election. They put a separate ticket in the field, including two women, for School Commissioner, and about sixty of them voted for it. They came in a body to the polling place with bouquets and cotton umbrellas in their hands and displayed determination in their countenances, some of them old and gray headed and many of them young and pretty. Their presence, which should have cast a benign influence over the election, was not productive of hisses. But Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., who lives in the town, stood up gallantly for the rights of the sex, and carried his heroines through triumphantly, just as *he does* in his romances.

SENATOR REVELS has perpetrated a sarcasm of the most biting description, in the performance of an official duty, to wit: in presenting the following resolution to the United States Senate, from the Legislature of Mississippi, bearing the signature of the Governor and the great seal of the State, asking pardon for Jeff. Davis and other rebels:

Resolved, That the people of Mississippi, having accepted with a cheerful heart the decision of the Legislature of said State having ratified the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, the Congress of the United States be hereby requested to pass a bill removing the disabilities of all citizens of the state of Mississippi, and that the Senator from this State be requested to present the action of this body to the Senate of the United States.

A PHILADELPHIA paper calls attention to the fact that the annual appropriation bill before the House contains an item for the maintenance of the Soldiers' Orphan's Schools, with a proviso allowing the parent or *other relative* of the children to take them away from the schools, and receive $100 per year money for keeping them. This, it is contended, permits any unscrupulous farmer or mechanic to obtain a child and compel it to labor for eight months and pays him a premium for taking it. It is a sale of the orphan, and as such is inclined to every living soldier. The proviso manifestly opens the door for a great abuse.

THE Cincinnati *Gazette* states that in consequence of the delay in completing the canal around the Louisville falls, boat building has for some time been suspended, and there is consequently a scarcity. If the engineering is soon to be finished the class of boats limited by the size of the present canal could not compete with the large class that could pass the enlarged canal; and, on the other hand, the completion of the enlargement is too uncertain to warrant the building of large boats. Gen. WEITZEL has written a letter setting forth the importance of pushing the work.

A NEW colonization scheme for Washington Territory is on foot in Chicago, with the following officers: President, D. Kilnworth, Vice President, Paul Stoffroth; Secretary and Treasurer, Wm. Vocke; Corresponding Secretary, Fritz Anneke; Technical Committee, Alex. Theuer, Ad. Abele and Ernest Schiffer. At a meeting a few evenings since Gen. Solomon, the newly appointed Governor of the Territory, madean address, setting forth the capabilities and attractions of the country. About one hundred joined then and there.

A BAR association has been formed in the City of New York, "to maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of the law, to cultivate social intercourse among its members, and to increase its usefulness in promoting the due administration of justice." Corrupt judges and unscrupulous attorneys made the movement one of necessity. The admission fee is fixed at $50, and the annual dues at $10. A law building and library will be provided by the association.

THE Executive management of the New York Central and Hudson River Consolidated line, and of the New York and Harlem line, is in the hands of Commodore VANDERBILT and those of his son, Mr. William H. Vanderbilt, the latter being Vice President in both lines, and Daniel Torrance, the son-in-law of Mr. Vanderbilt, who is Vice President of the New York Central, last year proved his energy and efficiency in connection with the consolidation of the Central and Hudson, from the vice presidency, but continued to serve the joint interest until last month at Albany, in the arrangements for the lease of the Harlem. Mr. Worchester, the Secretary of the Company, is a gentleman of liberal culture and progressive ideas, and the general passenger agent, Mr. Buckley, is a model railroad man. Such a combination of talent should be permanent.

A CARD signed by over one hundred Republicans of Jefferson county appears in the Brookville *Republican* announcing Major G. W. ARNOLD as their candidate for Congress in the Nineteenth District.

THE Blair County *Radical* of last week says: "It may not be generally known that the Hon. CHARLES BUFFINGTON is already entered into the State Senatorial contest in this district. We violate no confidence when we write that John M. Scott, of Philadelphia, the leading lawyer of the Cameron's successor in 1873, and that further more, certain straws visible in the political atmosphere of this section, and though an effort to secure conference favorable to that gentleman's election, are making."

Headsman Turning Reformer.

Heidenrix, the Parisian headsman, has recently pronounced in favor of re-establishing the punishment of death, and even of greater times to murderers and highway robbers. He proposes that the punishment inflicted on persons who have killed others shall henceforth be graduated according to the number of their victims. Murderers who have killed one person shall be guillotined; those who have slain two or three shall be whipped and branded before their heads are cut off; those who have murdered more than three persons shall be broken on the wheel; that is to say, their joints shall be crushed with a heavy sledge-hammer before they are tied to the fatal plank. The jury's recommendation to mercy, he says in conclusion, must in no case have effect than to lessen the punishment of the murderer by one grade. Unless these modifications of the Criminal Code adopted, the headsman of Paris says that the crime of murder will become more and more prevalent in France, the guillotine losing most its terror for assassins.

Cleveland Postoffice.

The editor of the Cleveland Postmaster at Cleveland writes home about the office as follows: "Representative Upson, in obedience to an unmistakable expression of the wishes of the great body of the Republican party, has decided to recommend John W. Allen as successor to the present Postmaster of Cleveland. So far as we know, the candidates are Allen, ALBERT G. RIDDLE, late of this city, and Col. Childs; the present Postmaster not being a candidate for re-appointment. From present appearances, the contest will be between Mr. Allen and Mr. Riddle. We might be surprised at the decision of Mr. Upson to recommend Mr. Allen would remove all others from office, but he will. We presume any one for which he is amenable to society is that which concerns others."

There is a possibility that there will soon be another negro member in Congress. Governor Holden of North Carolina is dead, that, if an election is held there to fill the the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dowesse, the Republicans will probably nominate and elect a negro, who was much talked of when Dewesse was originally elected. The district is pretty close, but Harris will unfoubtedly be chosen if he is nominated; and any respectable colored man can't help being an improvement upon the disgraced cadet soldier.

The meteors Miantonomah and Terror are under orders to leave Boston the present week, the former for the West Indies, the latter for Hampton Roads.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Salt Lake advices represent that though Brigham Young and his leading Apostles are considerably exercised about the proposed law of Congress prohibiting polygamy, and as to the future of Mormonism, the masses of the Mormons are scarely aware of the threatening danger. Brigham Young professes to feel that the bill will fail. He argues that Congress has no authority to enact such a law, it being clearly in conflict with the first article of the Constitution, which provides that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Polygamy being a part of the Mormon religion, it is argued that the above constitutional provision protects Brigham Young's plurality of wives.

The absorbing question at present before the Maryland Legislature is that of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and its financial relations, or alleged indebtedness to the State for capitalization tax, and other claims. Mr. Kimmel, in the House of Delegates last week, made a speech asserting, and giving figures to prove it, that the State and the private stockholders in the Washington branch have, during the past five or six years, been actually defrauded out of over four millions five hundred thousand dollars. This we are led to infer, was done with the design and full knowledge, excepting Mr. Kimmel, of the President and his Board of Directors. The inference is also drawn that their object in so doing was that they were actually suborned or coerced into aiding and abetting in those frauds. Mr. Garrett is now engaged preparing a statement in answer to these charges.

The *Sun* states that a broad smile overspread the Broadway Tabernacle congregation Sunday morning, when the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Thompson, who wore a faultless dress coat, announced that at the next sociable, under the auspices of that church, gentlemanly ushers would be in attendance to facilitate the congregation in becoming acquainted with each other, and that the ushers would be provided with badges indicative of their important office.

In retaliation for the termination of the reciprocity treaty, the Canadian Government is preparing a series of measures intended to annoy and injure as much as possible American merchants and shipping masters. One of these measures is an act now before the Dominion Parliament, forbidding American vessels to carry goods or passengers from one Canadian port to another, under a penalty of four hundred dollars and the confiscation of the goods. This act, if it becomes a law, will undoubtedly take away from our lake shipping much valuable business; but as regards the Canadian people, it will be decidedly biting off their nose to spite their face.

According to the observations made last summer by the exploring party under Prof. J. D. Whitney, the elevations of some of the principal peaks of the Rocky Mountains are as follows: Mount Harvard, 14,270 feet; Gray's Peak, 14,226; Pike's Peak, 14,216; Mount Lincoln, 14,128; Mount Holy Cross, 13,900; Long's Peak, 13,760. It is stated that no point has yet been found in the Rocky Mountains as high as several in the Sierra Nevadas.

The Saint Paul (Minnesota) *Press* has the following: "A lone woman passed through the city yesterday, with an ox team conveyance, on her way to a homestead, seventeen miles above Alexandria, Douglas county, some two hundred miles from this city. She had previously gone on and pre-empted a claim under the Homestead law, and built a house, and went back to near Red Wing for her aged mother. She found her mother sick, and, after waiting some time for her recovery, and finding necessary for her to return to look to her homestead she started alone, with her household goods on a sled, hauled by an ox-team, a cow behind, and a dog under the sled, who, as a Swede, did not appear to be at all appalled by the prospect of her many days' journey to her lonely home."

The Springfield (Ill.) *Register*, of the 3d inst., says: "Farmers from various sections of the country inform us that the long continued dry weather is having a bad effect upon the sown wheat. It is looking badly, and needs rain very much. Should the drought continue dry throughout the month of March, the wheat crop will be almost a failure the coming season. Especially will this be the case should the month be March as cold as was day."

A correspondent of the *Maine Farmer* has a new use for oats. He says: "My way to cure a sulky steer that lays down when you first yoke him is to take a cat and let her put her paws on the side of the steer's nose, and then assist to hold her rather hard. My word for it, he will be on his legs quick."

The sinking of the Oneida has a parallel in the loss of the Arctic, September, 1854. One prominent victim was Mr. Collins, of the firm of Brown Bros. & Co., lost eight of his kindred in this disaster. They had gone on a family excursion to Europe, and the loss of the only one was such a blow to Hortitio Allen, the husband of Mr. Brown's daughter, and he often expressed his regret that he had not shared their fate. The memory of the scene was so painful that he constantly shrunk from alluding to it. The unfortunate group went down together, but he came up and got on a piece of the wreck, by which he was subsequently rescued. Mr. Allen was utterly crushed by this misfortune, and died a few years afterwards.

While some men were racing their ponies for a purse in Colorado, the other day, two of the party engaging in the contest came in collision. One went up and the other down, and the drivers on recovering their breath, found the animals gone.

The damage done to Southern California by the long continued drouth has been great. The Monterey *Democrat* says: "In many instances, indeed, sheep owners, in place of seeking to rescue their animals from the fate, are employing men to knock them over the head as fast as born. In San Luis Obispo, sheep are selling at fifty cents a head, and cattle from $9 to $20.

The correspondent of the Washington *Chronicle* speaking of the adjournment of the South Carolina Legislature on Wednesday last, says: "Elegant equipages driven by costly horses—the finest in the country—dashing through the streets with colored men and women in gaudy attire." The darkeys were making efforts to put the Civil Rights Bill in force. One hotel keeper was asked for drink by a party of negroes, but he refused. They asked the reason. He said, "I don't like you. I sell liquor to whom I please. I don't like your clothes; you don't behave like gentlemen; but mind you, I don't object to you on account of your race, color, or previous condition." The negroes left with a flea in their ear.

A preacher in the northern part of the State said to a widow while attending her husband's funeral the other day: "Be comforted, dear woman. Infinitely better for you to sit and sorrow by such a pure and true man's grave, than to have a living husband by your side, false to God and false to his marriage vows." This probably was a case of "Hobson's choice."

"Who are you?" inquired the magistrate in a New Orleans court of a wild-looking fellow brought before him. "Your father, sir." "What! do you mean to say that you don't know said your father." "Why, I've got none." "Are you sure?" "Quite certain." "Then I reckon I'm mistaken; but your ears deceive me." "My ears! Why, how could that be?" "All my children have long ears, sir; very long ears; there are but three classes of this species, sir; my children, the rabbits and the donkeys—you are not a rabbit—" The outraged judge could endure no more, but shouted at the top of his voice to the officers to take him down. "Oh, and I hear you bray!" and the poor fellow was sent to the asylum.

STATE POLITICS.

It is said Hon. H. C. Johnson, of Meadville, has been tendered a United States Judgeship in Colorado, but declines the appointment.

A. B. Richmond, Esq., of Meadville, will be a candidate for State Senator from the Erie and Crawford district. The Clarion *Republican* says: "He is one of the finest lawyers in the State; a gentleman of liberal culture and progressive ideas, and would make a model legislator. A better choice could not be made from that senatorial district."

A party of gentlemen in the Astor House were conversing a few evenings ago on the increase of crime and robbery in New York, and one made a bet that no man, having the appearance of a gentleman, and respectably dressed, could walk from the Astor House to Union Square without being followed by thieves or set upon by touters for gambling establishments. The bet was taken, and the test was promptly undertook the test. He got along very well till he reached Broadway, when a seedy looking individual took a deep interest in his welfare, and proposed to show him under the influence of liquor, invited him to visit a "club," thinking it was a "sell," but finding that a shower Houston street, who, in attempting to hustle him preparatory to picking his pocket, found that he had got hold of the wrong man.

SAYS the *Army and Navy Journal*: "In connection with the recent attempt at Panama to suppressed the opinion that 'the Mianlonomah, ugly as she is, if she could get alongside of the Monarch's broadside, would make short work of her.' It would be a very fine thing for the Monarch to do under such circumstances would be to use her 8,000 horse power engines to run down the monitor in this way. It is well to remember, too, that her speed is substantially the same as that of the monitor, the expenditure of coal, 250 tons being consumed in maintaining the speed of fifteen knots for twenty-four hours. At this rate she can carry coal for less than four days."

JOSEPH BREEN, a brother of "Jack Reynolds," who is sentenced to be hung in April, arrived in New York on Saturday, and went to the prisoner immediately. The meeting between the brothers was very affecting. The brothers embraced and both wept bitterly. Reynolds was almost frantic with distress, and seemed to suffer terribly. He blamed himself bitterly, calling him in language of the most endearing kindness, that he took to God for pardon, and prayed to place no dependence on earthly hopes. Breen is employed in the weavers in a woolen factory at Worcester, Mass., and says that he knew nothing of the position in which Reynolds is placed until this week.

"THE sole end," says John Stuart Mill, "for which mankind is warranted, individually or collectively, in interfering with the liberty of action of any of the number, is self-protection. The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. The only part of the conduct from which it is desired to deter him must be calculated to produce evil to some one else." The principle is that which in any case for which he is amenable to society is that which concerns others."

STATE NEWS.

An ex-policeman, named O'Brien, has been convicted at Erie of permitting a horse thief, whom he had in custody, to escape, in consideration of a sum larger than the reward offered for the capture. The punishment for the offense is imprisonment in the Penitentiary not exceeding five years.

Daniel Emerson, a boy of seventeen years, swallowed six "drinks" of whisky at Enterprise on last Friday, was thrown into a drunken stupor, and died on Saturday night. There is a temperance lecture in a nutshell.

The Erie *Dispatch* says: The Corry Climax Mower Company has failed, and the Sheriff is fairly burdened with executions against the concern, amounting in the aggregate, we understand, to $300,000. We have not learned the amount of the assets but the property must be of considerable value. This important failure is a severe blow to the manufacturing interests of Corry.

The Oil City *Register*, weekly, has been received by M. E. Johns. It is devoted to the petroleum interest and independent in all things.

The *Chronicle* is the name of a new daily paper commenced last week at Allentown. It is neat and newsy.

A hog was slaughtered in Chester county last week, which weighed when dressed, 1,040 pounds.

The Allentown *Chronicle* says: In York county valuable steel ore has been discovered drawn, that clerks and employees of the road were actually suborned or coerced into aiding and abetting in those frauds. Mr. Garrett is now engaged preparing a statement in answer to these charges.

The Allentown Bar favor a new judicial district, to comprise Lehigh and Carbon counties.

The Grand Master of the Anthracite Coal Region on Friday presented to Benton Memma, of Dauphin county, an ebony cane mounted with gold. Senator Turner made the presentation speech.

Prof. Ira E. Harsh, Superintendent of Common Schools of Mercer county, died on the 4th inst., after a protracted illness.

Westmoreland county has two hundred and eighty-seven school houses, valued, with the grounds and property belonging to them, at $705,000.

The Titusville *Herald* has been enlarged to thirty-two columns, and is the most enterprising as it is the best newspaper in the oil regions.

The next reunion of the Fifty-seventh Pennsylvania regiment will be held in Titusville, April 11, 1871.

Philadelphia has a new weekly entitled *The Manufacturers' Journal*, edited and published by J. C. Martin. It is devoted to the interests of the mechanic, manufacturer, miner, &c. It presents a neat appearance, and is filled with interesting contents and other valuable articles.

Rev. Samuel Wolfe Weimer was ordained pastor of the Salem Baptist Church, Washington county, on the 24th ult.

R. G. Dill, Esq., for two years the able editor of the *Corry Journal*, has retired therefrom, and goes to another field of labor.

A man living unhappily with his wife somewhere in Armstrong county, it is reported, recently sold her to a peddler for two cents. She went with the peddler.

The Titusville *Herald* says: "Oil establishment is to be sold at public sale, by order of Court of Common Pleas.

About a month ago, a little girl aged twelve years, named Ella Berne, was attacked in the streets of Philadelphia, and her hair cut off by some miscreant. She was so terribly frightened that she took sick and died in paroxysms last week. Her parents being poor, her employer has offered a reward to ferret out the villain and have him punished.

There are over six hundred applications for admission into the soldiers orphans' schools on file in Governor Geary's Harrisburg office. Favorable action on them, it is said, is precluded for want of funds. In February twenty applications were granted.

A company under the title of the "Roaring Run Coal Company" has been organized by capitalists of Clearfield. The company, with a capital of $100,000, have secured four hundred acres of land near the railroad, about two and a half miles from that place, upon which they have commenced operations.

A Philadelphia correspondent says: Rev. Albert Barnes, the eminent Phresbyterian divine, is failing rapidly, and will hardly be able to live through the current year. He has been a sufferer for a long time, but has borne the utmost of good to the world. Mr. Barnes will soon be eighty-four years old. If he lives to see harvest, he will be doing something for the cause in which he has labored a long life time.

PERSONAL.

Every cold spell in England carries off numbers of aged people from 80 to 100. James Mackenzie, son of the author of the "Man of Feeling," has just died at the age of 90. His father was the associate of Hume, and had achieved literary distinction in the days of Dr. Johnson. The son of the author can look back to the discovery of America, and twenty years before the Declaration.

Mr. Henderson, of the Lydia Thompson troupe, has been in New York. He states that both he and the women participants in the late Chicago outrage were innocent of the occurrence very much; that anything like violence was utterly foreign to the nature of Miss Thompson, and that she certainly shrunk from allowing it to the unfortunate group went down together, but he came up and got on a piece of the wreck, by which he was subsequently rescued. Mr. Allen was utterly crushed by this misfortune, and died a few years afterwards.

In the list of passengers by the steamship President, which sailed from New York to Liverpool in 1841, and was never heard from afterwards, appeared the name of the Honorable George Charles Lennox, the second son of the late Duke of Richmond. No doubt was entertained that the young nobleman and the Queen was really what he styled himself, and that he perished with everybody on board that ill-fated ship. But now a middle-aged man, who has been "missing" for ten years, has published his advertisement from Albert Lea, Minn., declaring himself to be dead to the world as the long lost brother of the present Duke, and begs any of his old friends who may still live to communicate with a party of large means. If he has much money he will experience no difficulty in finding friends.

The *Nation* recurs to the Fitz-John Porter case as follows: "By a new and thorough examination of the testimony, we are led to the conviction that Porter shamefully and dishonorably violated his trust, and that by the law he will not be reinstated in the army that his sentence will be carried into effect, and that he will not be recognized as a person having any claim whatever to the clemency of the Government."

Secretary Boutwell has ordered some new fifty cent notes to be printed with the portrait of the late Secretary Chase.

Mrs. Brunot and Mrs. Dodge accompanied their husbands in their long Indian expedition. The commissioners always opened the "talk" with prayer, and Mrs. Brunot gives a graphic description of the scene: "It was solemn and impressive in the extreme—the Christian prayer in the midst of hundreds of hundreds of uniatored savages, all reverently standing together with clasped hands, invoking the blessings of their common Father in heaven.

A well-known member of the Yale faculty, Prof. Sullivan, is famed far and wide for the marvellous originality and brevity of some of his language. The following is a sentence which actually formed the introduction to a lecture on one of the regular courses of study by the students of that year, from one of whom we have it: "The oleaginous and inmisiferous effects of the sun's rays upon the cuticle of the cerebrum are perceptible to the visual organs." We presume the effects of oxygenated muriatic acid are so fugacious and evanescent that we are not quite able to recognize the contents by any practical or theoretical view of their synquinous coruscations and sinuosities which they so often exhibit."

The Boston *Journal* says: "General Butler has appointed to the membership of the Military District at West Point, vacated by desertion, a young man named Charles Sumner Wilson, of Salem, the son of Thomas C. Wilson, a private soldier in the late war for the preservation of the States. His widowed mother resides in Salem, where she has given him an excellent education to fit him for college, and he is said to be well qualified for the appointment. It will be observed that the appointments of both the Senators from Massachusetts, and his colleagues in the same as that of the Senator from Mississippi.

At the second court bail at the Tuileries, this season, on the 25th of February, the Empress wore a white toilette of tulle over white and ribbon roses. The corsage and long tunic, forming queue, were of the same delicate material, spotted with silver, a magnificent diadem of brilliants and emeralds. The young Princess Clotilda was in rose colored gauze, with a skirt of tulle, trimmed with gold grapes of Monney in a white tulle skirt, with an outer one of gauze, draped with gold and silver stripes; a magnificent diadem in the hair and a necklace of brilliants and large emeralds.

Mr. J. McLean Brown, who, rumor says, is to succeed Bayard Taylor as Minister Plenipotentiary from China to the Western Powers, is of Scotch descent, and went out to China when a boy, and grew up as a subordinate in the British Consular service. His pay was then $1,000 per annum. After studying Chinese for several years, he was appointed Interpreter to the British Legation at Pekin, whence he came to undertake a journey west at a salary of $6,000. If he is appointed in Mr. Burlingame's stead he will reach no less than $10,000 yearly; high he stands a good deal better chance of being struck by lightning than he does of getting the appointment.

Fulton, who first successively applied steam as a motive power to vessels, was previously an artist. Morse, the father of the electric telegraph, is also an artist, and in these stirring times to murderers and highway robbers. He proposes that the punishment inflicted on persons who have killed others shall henceforth be graduated according to the number of their victims. Murderers who have killed one person shall be guillotined; those who have slain two or three shall be whipped and branded before their heads are cut off; those who have murdered more than three persons shall be broken on the wheel; that is to say, their joints shall be crushed with a heavy sledge-hammer before they are tied to the fatal plank. The jury's recommendation to mercy, he says in conclusion, must in no case have effect than to lessen the punishment of the murderer by one grade. Unless these modifications of the Criminal Code adopted, the headsman of Paris says that the crime of murder will become more and more prevalent in France, the guillotine losing most its terror for assassins.

Cleveland Postoffice.

The editor of the Cleveland Postmaster at Cleveland writes home about the office as follows: "Representative Upson, in obedience to an unmistakable expression of the wishes of the great body of the Republican party, has decided to recommend John W. Allen as successor to the present Postmaster of Cleveland. So far as we know, the candidates are Allen, ALBERT G. RIDDLE, late of this city, and Col. Childs; the present Postmaster not being a candidate for re-appointment. From present appearances, the contest will be between Mr. Allen and Mr. Riddle. We might be surprised at the decision of Mr. Upson to recommend Mr. Allen would remove all others from office, but he will. We presume any one for which he is amenable to society is that which concerns others."

There is a possibility that there will soon be another negro member in Congress. Governor Holden of North Carolina is dead, that, if an election is held there to fill the the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dowesse, the Republicans will probably nominate and elect a negro, who was much talked of when Dewesse was originally elected. The district is pretty close, but Harris will unfoubtedly be chosen if he is nominated; and any respectable colored man can't help being an improvement upon the disgraced cadet soldier.

THE LOST ONEIDA.

HEROISM OF HER COMMANDERS.

Letter to Hon. Andrew Stewart from the United States Consul at Yeddo, Japan—Particulars of the Disaster.

The following letter, detailing the loss of the United States steamer Oneida, and the gallant souls who commanded and sailed her, has been received by Hon. Andrew Stewart, of Uniontown. How bravely Lieutenant Commander Stewart met his death is feelingly told by the writer:

ON BOARD THE "ARGONTAUT," }
BAY OF YEDDO, JAPAN, January 30, 1870. }

HON. ANDREW STEWART:

MY DEAR SIR:—A sad, *sad* duty is mine. My heart aches when I see pen almost refuses to write words that will rend your heart, and carry mourning to your household. Your son, Lieutenant Commander Wm. F. Stewart, went down with his ship (the "Oneida"), and nineteen officers and men, off Kinnasaki Point, on the night of January 26th. The particulars of this terrible disaster, which has sent mourning to so many households, I will not detail to you, for by the time this reaches you, the papers will be filled with them. Suffice it to say, the *inhuman, brutal* desertion of the "Oneida" by Captain Eyre, of the P. and O. mail steamer "Bombay," at this time (the "Bombay" struck the "Oneida," the officers were at dinner in the ward room (6½ P. M.). All rushed on deck and took up several positions from which they could jump. Seeing that the "Bombay" was going to strike, Captain Eyre, of the "Bombay" sang out, "Ship aboard!" and as you've read it before. But the "Bombay" kept on and no reply. Again he cried, "For God's sake stand by; you have cut us in two!" Still no answer, and on the "Bombay" went. Your son and one of the middshipmen, Archibald Gifford and Reed Anderson, the engineer turned on the whistle—all of which the captain of the "Bombay" says *he did not hear*, and did not even stop to see what damage he had done, which, had he have done, all or nearly all would have been saved. Twenty miles away, at Yokohama, the guns were distinctly heard, and still the brute of a captain—but more than a mile away—says he did not hear them, or see the flash.

The "Oneida" had but three boats, one of which was cut into by the collision, and the other two were filled with men, the officers refusing to take to them. The officer of the deck, Lt. J. Yates, who is saved, says he tried to get the Captain (Williams) and your son to get into one of the boats, but they both refused, the Captain saying, "No, I'll go down with the ship," and your son replying, "My duty is here, not in the boat." Nothing could have been more heroic. As he went down he said, "My God! this is the way we must die." He was last seen in the water swimming for one of the boats. Never was heroism more heroic—never bravery more brave. The Minister (Mr. De Long) and myself breakfasted with them all on board the "Bombay," P. and O. steamer, and your son expressed himself as dreading for some months the long, dull cruise in port on board our ship, "

cent, he is sure in all cases, under the legal tender act, to vote with Judge Miller. This will make a "tie" in the court, and the judgment of the court below will stand affirmed. All the cases now in the court, it is said, are in favor of the constitutionality of that act. So that while the court remains with eight Judges, all judgments rendered will be exactly contrary to the elaborate decision of Chief Justice Chase.

HARRISBURG.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 3, 1870.

SENATE.

The Treasury Bill.

The Treasury bill was discussed all morning without result. Mr. Billingfelt supported his own bill; Messrs. Howard, Olmsted, White and Connell supported the House bill, and Mr. Wallace supported his own bill, there being three bills before the Senate.

The New Police Bill.

The new Philadelphia police bill was reported favorably with amendments.

The Border Raid Bill.

A remonstrance was received from forty citizens of York county against the border raid bill.

The Military History.

Mr. White submitted a report from the Conference Committee with a resolution for a joint committee of five from each House to inquire into the propriety of completing Bates' Military History, with probable cost. Adopted.

Bills Passed and Defeated.

AFTERNOON.—The Senate bill making the act exempting mortgages, &c., from State taxation general was passed, with a proviso added by Mr. Rulan that the bill shall not apply in counties not named in the special acts until November 1st, 1870.

Mr. Connell's bill exempting bequests to charitable or religious institutions from collateral inheritance tax was defeated.

The Senate bill repealing the twenty-fourth section of the registry law of 1869 was defeated.

Senate bill regulating the election of Attorney General and Secretary of the Commonwealth was defeated.

Mr. Billingfelt's bill requiring County Superintendents to distribute school reports, was passed.

Senate bill authorizing married women to purchase or sell and convey their separate property when deserted by their husbands, and to sue for and recover the same was passed.

Mr. White's bill repealing the five hundred dollar license fee on foreign insurance companies, and imposing in lieu thereof a tax of three and a half per cent., was passed.

Senate bill authorizing the judges of civil courts to commit or hold to bail persons guilty of the crime of perjury in cases tried before them was passed.

The bill from the House exempting family sewing machines from levy, sale, execution or distress for rent, was passed.

Mr. Nagle's bill for the punishment of persons guilty of any act whereby laborers, mechanics, conveyancers or real estate brokers are deprived or prevented from collecting wages or commissions was passed.

Senate bill extending the general manufacturing law of 1861 to all merchandising was favored by Messrs. Howard and Graham, and laid over.

The Oil Pipe Bill.

The bill reported by the Judiciary Committee in obedience to Senate resolution, providing for the incorporation of petroleum pipe companies, being the free pipe bill for any five citizens who may associate themselves, was called up. Mr. Allen opposed consideration, and notified the Senate that he was willing to make the free pipe bill, which he represented as the "oil producers' favorite," a party question, he would favor its passage, because it extended to oil the general manufacturing law of 1861. Mr. Graham favored the Senate bill, which was killed:

YEAS.

Allen,	Kerr,	Stinson,	
Billingfelt,	Mumma,	Wardel,	
Brooke,	Purman,	White,	
Graham,	Rutan,		
Howard,	Turner,		

NAYS.

Beck,	Findley,	Nagle,	
Bircheard,	Hensey,	Osterhout,	
Buckalew,	Lindeman,	Randall,	
Connell,	McIntyre,	Robison,	
Dunlap,	Minor,	Wilson.	

The Senate supplement to the Sunday liquor law changing punishment from fine and imprisonment to the fine alone, was passed finally on second reading by 16 to 13.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Bills Passed.

The mining bill from the Senate was passed unanimously.

Railroad Inquiry.

Mr. Keene, of Luzerne, introduced a bill for the appointment of a committee of ten to report to the next Legislature whether any railroads of the State have violated their charters by exorbitant rates. Laid over.

Suppression of Gambling.

The bill for the suppression of gambling was debated. Mr. Josephs moved indefinite postponement. Lost. The bill then passed second reading.

Defeated.

AFTERNOON.—The bill authorizing the Governor to issue commissions to officers in the late war was defeated.

B-ll Passed.

The bill from the Senate authorizing husband and wife to testify in divorce cases was passed.

Discussed.

The bill from the Senate authorizing corporations to capitalize their earnings, was discussed all afternoon.

The Treasury Investigation.

The Senate Finance Committee met this evening, having last night subpœned ex-Treasurers Kemble, Moore and McGrath. There was a full attendance of members, but spectators but no witnesses. Letters and dispatches were presented from Messrs. Kemble, Moore and McGrath, expressing their inability to be present to-night, but that they would be here within a week. The committee adjourned the investigation till Wednesday evening next.

The Mining Bill a Law.

The Governor has just signed the mining bill.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 4, 1870.

SENATE.

The Railroad Indemnity Act.

Mr. Rutan introduced a bill repealing what is generally known as the railroad indemnity act of 1868, fixing damages for loss of life or limb.

The Refusal of Gen. Irwin to Testify.

Mr. Mumma introduced the following:

WHEREAS, The late State Treasurer, W. H. Irwin, has declined to be sworn by the Finance Committee to make answer to such matters as said Committee might deem important for the information of the Senate and it is therefore manifestly inexpedient to continue to investigate such matters unless the Senate determine to compel parties to be sworn before said Committee; therefore

Resolved, That the Chairman of said Committee is hereby requested to report to the Senate for further action in the premises.

Compulsion Suggested.

Mr. Lowry trusted this resolution was not going to be adopted. The Senate should compel Gen. Irwin to be sworn. If he was sworn, and then said he could not answer any particular question or questions, without criminating himself, or for any other legal cause, he might then shield himself, but he could not stand up and defy the dignity and power of the Senate of Pennsylvania.

No Confidence in the Investigation.

Mr. Mumma said he had never had much confidence in these investigations. This one, it seemed, was just dragging along, and after it ended, but it was a fact notoriously circulated that General Irwin had declined to be sworn before this committee. Mr. Mackey had gone through a long examination, though he had refused to answer some questions. It was now manifest to every one that every other gentleman subpœnaed to appear would avail himself of the privilege assumed by General Irwin, because nobody would be compelled through such a mill if he could avoid it, by simply writing a letter declining the action of this committee. It was not strange. He would not, however, say anything against Senator Connell or Lancaster. Mr. Billingfelt, interrupting, said the gentleman had already impugned his character.

Mr. Mumma, continuing, said he wanted to know just here whether the Senate could, and if they could, whether they were willing to make this gentleman (General Irwin) answer the requirements of the Senate and the Committee. He understood the Chairman was to have reported this fact, but he had not done so yet. Now, was it the Senator from Lancaster should be examined, and General Irwin allowed to escape?

Response of Mr. Billingfelt.

Mr. Billingfelt replied at considerable length very warmly and excitedly, contending that the Senator from Lancaster should not be allowed to dictate to the Committee. Mr. Mackey had had seventeen days to give the Committee what information he could, and he even then failed to fully comply. He did not believe in dragging the name of the Senator at this time, but he thought it fair to make this statement.

Mr. White suggested that perhaps it would be better not to proceed as chairman of the Committee with such a spirit and expression of feeling.

A Point Not Well Taken.

Mr. Howard raised the point of order that Mr. Billingfelt had no right to discuss anything but Mr. Irwin's refusal to answer. The Chair decided the point not well taken.

A Time Server.

Mr. Billingfelt proceeded. He would not be forced into a false position by the Senator from Dauphin, nor by the Senator from Lancaster that Mr. Mumma was a time server.

Some warm personal discussion then ensued between Messrs. Mumma and Billingfelt, and charges and counter charges were made.

Mr. McGrath asked Mr. Billingfelt if he had not been ordered to make a report this morning.

A Verbal Report.

Mr. Billingfelt responded that he had been instructed to report this matter, but that it was understood that a portion of the meeting of the committee was first to have been held to consider the subject. No such meeting had been held, owing to the absence or engagements of members. He could not, however, report more than he had said—that General Irwin had refused to be sworn, and that Mr. Mackey had failed to meet the requirements of the committee. This he would reduce to writing if necessary.

A Legal Opinion.

Mr. Howard spoke at length controverting the position that the Senate had no right to govern the committee. The first duty of the Chairman was to have reported General Irwin's refusal to be sworn before the act of attachment against him. He severely criticized Mr. Billingfelt's course.

Mr. White moved that the resolution be postponed for the present.

Mr. Billingfelt moved for indefinite postponement. He wanted a direct vote on the resolution.

Mr. White said Mr. Billingfelt had not appreciated the fact that his (White's) motion was intended as a kindness to him, to allow him to prepare his report.

Mr. Lowry withdrew the preamble by by inclining Mr. Mackey's refusal to answer.

No Result.

Mr. Randall moved an adjournment, and it appearing that this motion would probably carry, the Speaker proceeded to clear his table.

Veto by the Governor.

A message from the Governor was received vetoing the bill extending the fifth class of auditors to Allegheny county.

District Attorney's Detective.

The amendments from the House to the bill allowing the District Attorney of Allegheny county to employ a special detective, were concurred in. Adjourned till Tuesday.

The House business was unimportant.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 7, 1870.

SENATE

Not in session.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. Elliott called up the act authorizing the stockholders in oil companies to wind up their affairs. Passed second reading and laid over on motion of Mr. Brown.

Bills Introduced.

Mr. White—*Providing for reports from all hospitals, charitable and other institutions recently appropriations from the Commonwealth.*

Mr. Humphreys—*For the improvement of Washington avenue, known as Saw Mill Run road, Allegheny county, which authorizes the macadamizing of the road by a tax of two six to four dollars per acre upon adjoining land, to be secured by the collection of toll.*

Mr. Kerr—*Authorizing the Citizens and People's Passenger Railways of Pittsburgh to use steam from Boundary street through the Sixteenth and Nineteenth wards to East Liberty, when a consent of a majority of property owners and citizens along said route may be filed in the Register's office.* Also regulating the sale of goods by storekeepers and their agents, allowing sale by sample at either and all points, in which the stores are situated without peddler's license. Urged by Thos. M. Marshal, Thomas J. Keenan and others.

Mr. Walton—*Enabling the East End Gas Company of Pittsburgh to issue mortgage bonds.*

Mr. Miller—*Incorporating Mifflin Steam Ferry Company.* Also supplement for Pittsburgh Safe Deposit Company, authorizing said corporation to act in a fiduciary capacity.

Mr. Shurlock—*For a monument in front of the capitol building, in memory of Pennsylvania volunteers killed in the war of the rebellion.*

Mr. Bunn—*Requiring assessors to levy a tax on all free male citizens of color over twenty-one years of age the same as on white citizens, and punishing any election officer who refuses to receive a legal vote.*

Mr. Reinoehl—*For the erection of a bronze statue to Thaddeus Stevens at Washington.*

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 8, 1870.

SENATE.

Bills Passed.

The following Senate bills were passed: Increasing the salary of the Assistant Warden of the Allegheny county workhouse, and defining the powers of inspectors. Supplement relating to Allegheny county Treasurer, and prescribing further duties. Extending Allegheny vehicle license law to Shousetown. Extending the time for filing claims for assessment of the Pittsburgh and Birmingham Passenger Railway, and continuing the lien. Extending the Allegheny grading and paving laws to Sharpsburg. Extending Allegheny City, amended by Wallon allowing the present officers to hold over till their terms expire.

The following House bills passed: Authorizing Washington county to sell, lease or sell real estate and borrow money. Incorporating American Fidelity Guarantee Insurance Company. Incorporating Pittsburgh Gas Exchange. Authorizing Mount Washington Borough to borrow money for street improvements.

Erie Canal.

House bill extending the charter of the Erie Canal, and authorizing the company to slackwater the Ohio River. Passed.

The Clinton Bridge Company.

The House bill incorporating the Citizens Bridge Company, Pittsburgh, passed second reading, and laid over on motion of Mr. Millar.

Cambria County Seat.

House bill for the removal of Cambria county seat to Ebensburg was killed.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Press.
HARRISBURG, PA., March 9, 1870.

SENATE.

Exoneration of Superintendent McFarland.

Mr. Graham, from the Educational Committee of last session, continued for the purpose of investigating the affairs of the soldiers' orphans department, reported that the committee had, after which Mr. Wallace, in open committee, moved an adjournment. Agreed to without further business.

It was stated in consultation the committee adopted two resolutions—one by Brooke to the effect that this examination be postponed until formal action on General Irwin's refusal be taken: the other by Mr. Wallace that the committee meet from now to half-past four to examine the ex-State Treasurers, or transact such other business as need be brought before them, and that the ex-Treasurers be notified accordingly.

CUBA.

Seven Men Sentenced to Death by Court Martial—Insurgent Losses—The Free Masons Still in Jail.

HAVANA, March 9.—A military court martial has been in session for the trial of persons accused of causing riot in the Villa Nueva Theater last year. Of the number tried, Serano, Branzco, Valdes, Pons, Cesmeros, Rivero and Valdes were found guilty and sentenced to death. Senors Santacelee, Parro and Laterre were acquitted. The above named are in New York.

The *Prensa* says the insurgents at Guines number 100. The *Diario*, says fifty-six of the number have been killed by the troops, and according to telegraphic dispatches the rest are completely surrounded.

The Havana journals contain accounts of the dispersion and killing of 200 insurgents belonging to the band of Maximo Gomez, near Bayamo.

A party of insurgents attacked the Armenta plantation, near Santiago de Cuba, and killed sixteen operatives.

The Free Masons lately arrested for holding a meeting are still in jail.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Pope Temporizing.

ROME, March 8.—The Pope temporizes, hoping to obtain a vote on the dogma of infallibility prior to the arrival of the French Commissioner.

LONDON, March 9.—The German and Austrian Bishops have decided to oppose the promulgation of infallibility and all new dogmas. It is generally hoped that the Pope will not precipitate a collision with European powers.

The Decline of American Commerce.

The *Times* attributes the decline of American commerce to a want of good ships and cheap freights, caused by the refusal to purchase ships abroad or import materials at low prices.

The Demand for Special Representatives

PARIS, March 9.—It is understood that other Catholic powers will join France in her demands for special representatives to the Ecumenical Council. Prince De La Tour d'Auvergne Lamagniots will probably be appointed as one of these representatives.

The Porto Rican Budget.

MADRID, March 9.—The Independent budget for Porto Rico has been presented to the Cortes.

No More Visits from Friends.

PARIS, March 9.—The police no longer permit the friends of Blanqui to visit him at prison.

The Conscripts Again.

Another demonstration was made by the conscripts at Lyons yesterday. The disorder was quelled without serious trouble.

Small Pox.

It is reported that small pox has broken out among the political prisoners confined.

Bright's Health Improving.

LONDON, March 8.—John Bright is still rusticating in the mountains of Wales. His health is improving.

Conservative Banquet.

LONDON, March 9.—The Conservative Association held a banquet to-night at City Terminus Hotel. R. N. Fowler, M. P. for Falmouth, occupied the chair. He was supported on the right by the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Hamilton, Sir J. Parkington, Messrs. G. W. Hunt and J. R. Mowbray and Sir John Hay, and on the left by the Duke of Abercorn, Earl of Aberganny, Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Lyall and others. Some four hundred guests were present, including most of the principal men of the conservative party. M. Disraeli was unable to be present.

Letters from the Earl of Derby, Marquis of Salisbury and Lord Lenox were read, regretting their unavoidable absence. Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a toast, made reference to what he termed the "cheese paring" policy of the administration toward the army. This hit was received with loud applause. Sir J. Parkington responded in the name of what was still left of the army. Its bravery, efficiency and discipline would be the same through all time. The policy of the present Government was condemned by all parties. To disconnect the army and reduce the force by twenty-four thousand men was injudicious economy. The army was in a worse condition than to reembody the army. Happily, the country had another force indissoluble, armed with truth, viz: The Conservative party, entrusted to defend the throne, the institutions, not excepting the Irish Church. Mr. Belcher responded for the navy and Beresford for the volunteers. The Chairman proposed the health of the Queen and the Conservative party, and eulogized the late Lord Derby. Gathorne Hardy, in reply, said the party was now in the minority in Parliament, hence all battles were fought outside. London had never been faithful to conservatism, which was growing in all the great centers of trade and manufactures, and was sure of future ascendency. Other speeches followed, and the party broke up at a late hour.

Speculative Interest in Our Bonds.

LONDON, March 9.—Strong speculative interest in American securities is developing here and on the continent.

Proceedings in the Cortes

MADRID, March 9.—The Cortes yesterday Senor Escorizo, one of the deputies from Porto Rico, thanked the Minister of the Colonies for introducing a separate budget for that island. He said it was a concession Porto Rico had vainly sought for years. The Cortes would have voted pay for extra service to soldiers of the army in Cuba for their share in actions with the insurgents.

The Government of Algeria.

PARIS, March 9.—In the Corps Legislatif today a debate took place on the government of Algeria. Jules Favre demanded that the affairs of that province be withdrawn from the legislation of both Chambers, and not by *Senatus Consultum*, Ollivier replied that the ministry desired to place other departments of the administration under the control of legislative bodies, and they were now consulting with the Emperor on the best method of effecting such changes.

Forster's Education Bill.

There is a growing tendency to oppose Mr. Forster's education bill, especially among nonconformists.

Parliament.

In the Commons this evening, the bill establishing a rate to provide for the maintenance of mines of lead in Scotland, was rejected by a majority of 117.

Infallible in Faith and Practice.

LONDON, March 9.—Among the propositions before the Ecumenical Council is one declaring the Pope infallible in the matter of faith and practice.

PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL EXTENSION.

Proposed Absorption of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad.

[From Money Article N. Y. Times.]

The American correspondent of the London *Times*, dating from Philadelphia, writes of the Pennsylvania Railway Company, that after leasing the interests of the Northern Pittsburgh and Chicago, (the Fort Wayne Road,) "*they are now completing an arrangement with the Chicago and Rock Island Railway, which will extend the Pennsylvania Railway (1859) 1,317 miles; (Pennsylvania, 359; Fort Wayne, 468; Rock Island, 552 miles;) west of Philadelphia, the terminus of the Pacific Railway.*" We have had vague hints of this arrangement before, but the present authority, in close proximity with the great heads of the Pennsylvania Railway interest, and not likely to mislead upon a matter of such magnitude therein, appears to give the report more shape and substance. If the arrangement be consummated it will probably take the form of a new corporation, or syndicate, to be formed with the difference, perhaps, of 10 per cent. on $18,000,000 capital on 52 miles in place of 12 per cent. on $1,500,000 of the Fort Wayne, and 7 per cent. on a debt of $7,000,000 in place of 7 per cent. on the larger debt of $12,000,000 now about $13,500,000. Of the old debt of the Rock Island and some other maturing obligations this year, about $2,000,000 remain to be capitalized under the order of the annual meeting of the stockholders in May next. Hence the new corporation will have to suffer no more than the improvement till he was disposed of. General Irwin stood in contempt of the Committee and the Senate.

Mr. Lowry replied that Mr. Billingfelt had misstated the action of the Committee. It was well known that there was a difference among all the ex-State Treasurers to refuse to answer certain questions. They should all be treated alike, and this resolution should not pass.

Mr. Billingfelt said he had made up his mind rather to suffer persecution than keep improper matters before the Senate. He thanked Mr. Wallace for his explanation. He had been ordered to report to the Senate the action of the Committee, but in consultation with the Sergeant-at-Arms to Philadelphia, and get all the other ex-Treasurers together to be present when he report them in a body.

Pending discussion, adjourned till afternoon.

AFTERNOON.—The following bills passed finally: Declaring children of parents who were slaves when married legal heirs of such parents. Providing for registration of railroad bonds and other railroad securities. Allowing canal companies to construct and operate latteral railroads. Relating to militia.

The Treasury Investigation Committee.

The Senate Finance Committee met to-night. A discussion ensued as to whether Messrs. Moore, Kemble and McGrath, ex-State Treasurer, should be examined this evening, they being present, or whether a demand should be made upon Gen. Irwin to testify. Chairman Billingfelt supposed the Committee would report which he proposed presenting to the Legislature to-morrow, announcing Gen. Irwin's refusal.

Mr. Brooke offered a resolution to continue the policy pursued, and based upon, and that General Irwin's examination be completed before any other witnesses be called. The committee then had a brief consultation, after which Mr. Wallace, in open committee, moved an adjournment. Agreed to without further business.

It was stated in consultation the committee adopted two resolutions—one by Brooke to the effect that this examination be postponed until formal action on General Irwin's refusal be taken: the other by Mr. Wallace that the committee meet from now to half-past four to examine the ex-State Treasurers, or transact such other business as need be brought before them, and that the ex-Treasurers be notified accordingly.

BEECHER'S VIEW OF IT.

Trying to Make a Christian Nation.

[From the Christian Union, H. W. Beecher's paper.]

Good intentions, even when recorded by brave attempts at execution, are not always sufficient for the accomplishment of worthy ends. It is highly honorable, for instance, to aim at the reconstruction of society on the basis that every human being is or ought to be a Christian. But it is a "stubborn fact" — very familiar to ourselves—that most men are not Christians and do not really wish to be Christians. Say "ought" to an average man and he replies "Yea." Say to him that he does ill in his attempt to make this a Christian nation by acknowledging God in the Constitution, or by enacting the law of the Sabbath, and the enormous sentiment of the people. Such provisions as these are generally regarded as making Christianity, as embodied in political forms, mockery. We hope that Christianity will one day be recognized in all constitutions and laws, and methods of public instruction and of private business; but that hope is founded on the expectation that the whole world will first be converted. Until then, that such recognition, unanimously and voluntarily adopted, will have no savor of hypocrisy about it. We look for that time to come when upon every thing shall be written "Holiness unto the Lord." Until that blessed condition, the day when the capstone of the temple shall be laid by Christ himself. But to anticipate the day by constitutional law, instead of God the Father and Christ the Savior is like transplanting a cypress tree in the air and fastening other stones to it, instead of building up from a foundation in solid earth. We must build from the first with the intent to the hope of glory, not down from a Christ hanging upon the vote of an irreligious majority.

A Gold Bear Ring.

A New York letter writer is thus oracular in regard to the decline of gold:

We are known it will be found that a formidable bear ring has materially aided in the decline in gold. This bear combination, which was formed soon after the passage of the funding bill, a prominent liquor dealer, who is given to speculation, and several other well-known parties. It controls, or is supposed to five millions of dollars, and the ramifications of their ring extended to the other side of the water. The object of the bear movements in European markets, while they bore down gold here, was brought yesterday and to the day before that they were endeavoring to cover their shorts, but the knowledge was afloat that they have not as yet begun their covering operations.

CHARLES FOX, late of New York, who bequeathed a handsome property to the United States, to be used towards paying off the debt contracted by their government, left no will of his own words, "for the purpose of assisting to discharge the debt contracted by the war for the subjugation of the rebellious Confederate States," and whose estate was administered by his "next of kin," lived in a most miserly manner, so that no one would imagine him to be possessor of so much wealth. He resided in one of the smallest and meanest apartments that Lafayette could find in the city of New York houses. He dressed as though he had not a cent in the world worth having. He never belonged for it, and none were allowed to approach him in his contracted quarters. He did his own cooking, made his own bed—a miserable old tick on a shaky old bedstead—and, in fine, lived the life of the most wretched of misers. Two or three weeks ago he was found dead in his room, and it was not until the production of the will that his wealth was brought to light. This wealth, it is said, consists of several houses on Tabri avenue and other parts of the city, and a great deal of land in the West.

Howe Sewing Machine. tf

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 9 1870

We have no feature of change in the workings of the local loan market to note. The supply of money both at banks and discount houses is still on the liberal scale, and no complaints are heard of any lack of willingness to let out to the right kind of applicants or borrowers. It is true we are in the midst of excessive dullness in all branches of business, caused by the rapid decline in gold and the apprehension of an early return to specie payments. Where the entire business of the country is conducted on a currency convertible into coin on demand, industry will quicken, and production for future consumption will give spirit and activity to trade, for the reason that producers will not then fear a further fall of prices by reason of a further appreciation of the currency, and consumers will not longer stand aloof from the market in the hope of purchasing lower.

—The question of an increase to the currency in order to give to the West and the South a more equitable share, has been again and again met with the argument that the currency will flow to the centres of trade and capital, and the distribution will depend upon the course of trade. But as it is very pertinently asked, "Is nothing the matter with the basis of a uniform national currency, each section of the country would get as many banks as it needs, and as much circulation as it could hold under the natural laws of trade; but the daily and steady approach to a specie basis now may obviate the necessity of any change in the volume of currency. Indeed, the currency would be increased by the addition of gold and silver to the circulation, and, as a matter of course, it would become more equally distributed, for the fact that the whole amount of currency in circulation has not affected the price of gold—for it is as large now as when gold was thirty per cent. higher or more—yet an increase of fifty millions might retard or hasten specie payments.

—Governments were firmer and showed an advancing tendency to-day. In regard to the passage of the funding bill, much doubt is felt in New York as to the chances of the bill in the House, where the feeling in favor of immediate funding measures is less earnest. So materially, however, has the recent decline in the premium affected the sentiment of the country that opinions upon this question that it is deemed probable the disagreement with the Senate will be rather upon methods than upon the general expediency of the present legislation on the subject.

Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co., report the following quotations of Government bonds in the New York to-day, as furnished by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Closing.
U. S. Bonds '81	113½		114
U. S. Bonds '62	109½	109½	109¾
U. S. Bonds '64	108¾	108¾	109
U. S. Bonds '65	108¾	108¾	109
U. S. Bonds, new, '65	107½	107¾	108
U. S. Bonds '67	108¾	108¾	109
U. S. Bonds '68	108	108½	109
U. S. Bonds, 10-40s	107½	107¾	108
Gold	110¼	110¼	111¼

James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

	Mar. 8.	Mar. 9.	Adv.	Dec.
Gold	111¼	110¾		¼
U. S. Bonds, 1881	114	113¾		¼
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '62	109½	109¾	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '64	108¾	109	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '65	108¾	109	¼	
U. S. Bonds, new iss. '65	107½	108	½	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '67	108¾	109	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 5-20s, '68	108	109	¼	
U. S. Bonds, 10-40s	107½	108	½	
U. S. Currency 6's	110½	111½	½	

—One of the remarkable features of the Wall street markets, in connection with the decline in gold, is the immense rise in the prices of stocks have been kept up. Northwestern, St. Paul, Rock Island, Lake Shore, Erie, Pittsburgh, and several others are all from 1 to 5 per cent. higher than a week ago, and as the rise in gold was 12. The advance in currency prices, taken in conjunction with the decline in gold, is equivalent to an advance of about 10 per cent. in the prices of railway stocks. The fact that there has been a decline in gold it is probable that the great abundance of money in New York held for specially purposes would have been the means of making currency quotations for stocks that much higher, but the fact that gold has been conducted the efforts of the bulls in the stock market, and instead of holding the stocks up in the hopes of a rise in gold; and if that does not come, stocks have yet to experience their fall in the rise in prices, corresponding with the lower range for gold.

The following table, made up from dispatches received over the private wires of Stock Rooms, Apollo Building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of Railway Stocks, Gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Boards during the day:

March 9, 1870.	10 00	11 30	12 30	1 30	3 00
	A M	A M	P M	P M	P M
New York Central	196	196½	196½	196½	196½
Erie	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾
Harlem	142				
Reading	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Michigan Central					
Michigan Southern	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾
Illinois Central	136½	137	137	137	137
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Chicago and Northwestern	73½	73½	73½	73½	73½
Do preferred	86½	86½	86½	86½	86½
Rock Island	119½	119½	119½	119½	119½
St. Paul	42	42	42	42	42
St. Paul preferred	77				
Toledo and Wabash	22				
Do preferred	32	32	32	32	32
Fort Wayne	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾	93¾
Chicago and Alton	113¾		113¾		113¾
Do preferred	118½		118½		118½
Western Union Telegraph	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾	74¾
Pacific Mail	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾	66¾
Adams Express	60½		60½		60½
Wells, Fargo & Co.	64¾		64¾		64¾
American M. U. Express	27¾		27¾		27¾
U. S. Express	50½		50½		50½
Merchants Union Ex.	49½		49½		49½
Gold	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾

A comparison between yesterday's and today's closing quotations shows the following changes:

	Tues.	Wed.	Adv.	Dec.
N. Y. Central	196¾	196½		¼
Erie	25	26	1	
Harlem	144	142		2
Reading	96	96¾	¾	
Mich. Central	93¾	93¾		
Mich. Southern	93¾	93¾		
Illinois Central	137	137		
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	87½	87½		
Chicago and North	73¾	73¾		
Do preferred	86½	86½		
Rock Island	119¾	119½		¼
St. Paul	42	42		
Do preferred	77			
Tol. and Wabash	44	43		1
Do preferred	70	70		
Fort Wayne	92¾	93¾	1	
Chicago and Alton	113¾			
Do preferred	118½			
Western U. Tel.	73¾	74¾	1	
Pacific Mail	66¾	66¾		
Adams Express	60½	61¼	¾	
Wells, Fargo & Co.	64¾	64¾		
American M. U. Ex	27¾	27¾		
U. S. Express	50½			
Merchants Union Ex.	49½			
Gold	110¾	110¾		

—James W. Kennedy, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building, dealer in United States Bonds, State and Municipal Securities, Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Being represented in the New York Stock Boards every day enables him to buy purchases and sells on commission any stocks on the regular lists on the same terms as the New York brokers. Governments, Gold and Railway Stocks purchased for customers on the usual margin.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, }
WEDNESDAY EVENING, March 9, 1870. }

BUSINESS.—The market continues dull, with a restricted demand for the leading articles, prices being weak with a declining tendency, the dullness in trade being mainly attributable to the present depressed condition of the money market as last week. There were large shipments of cattle for New York. The quality of cattle was very good, comprising five beeves, butchers' stock and stockers. The market continued to drag slowly all week until the close. The following are the sales and prices:

Cattle.

Sold by J H Bowman to H Gillett, 51 head, 59.60 gross; by Jas Rea to Martin Beaver, 100 head, 5½ gross; by M Johnson, T Lamb, 5, 61.670, C Bowden, H Miller, 14, 6½ gross; by Thomas, J Sloan, 7, 6½ gross; by J S Strauch, Thaler, 15, 7 gross.

Hogs—Sold by Thomas & Thorne, 4 head, weight 5,470, at $6.90; and $10.00 over; Thomas, 12, 16,100, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Moser, 1 on log, 37.50; Zinkling, 14, 10,820, 7.50; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00; Rea, 10, 12,200, 7.00

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 1870.

TERMS:

One copy, per year	$2 00
In clubs of twenty, per year	1 50
One copy gratis to the getter-up of the club.	

PITTSBURGH

COMMERCIAL.

DAILY AND WEEKLY.

1870.

As a thorough newspaper, sparing neither labor nor expense to furnish the fullest and most reliable intelligence; as the fearless, consistent, and persistent opponent of corruption in office and advocate of Honesty, Economy, Retrenchment, and Reform in public affairs; as the sworn foe of "Rings" and every description of dishonest combination,—just as ready to expose their practices in the Republican as Democratic party, and even more so, because it holds that a party that will cast out offenders of this description entitles itself to the confidence of the people—as an Independent Republican journal, the advocate of the rights and interests of the people,—THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL needs no new introduction to the reading public.

IT IS A PROGRESSIVE PAPER.

And keeps up in the march of improvement and the development of ideas. Thoroughly alive to everything it deems valuable or interesting, it identifies itself at once and heartily with whatever means calculated to improve mankind and elevate the standard of intelligence and morality. As a Republican journal of the strictest school, its advocacy of those questions with an earnest wish to get at the truth and place only good and capable men in office.

IT IS A PEOPLE'S PAPER.

And relies on their support and good opinion rather than the favors of political leaders, as has it done so in vain. Its independent course —more especially in the exposure of all forms of corruption and exposing the practices of thieves in office—has made it the favorite of the masses and the feared of dishonest partisans and unprincipled party leaders. Of the reputation it has earned in this respect it is sincerely proud, and it relies no different standing in the field of journalism in this regard than a discriminating public promptly accord to it. To prove faithful to their confidence and good opinion will be its constant endeavor.

IT IS A LIVE PAPER.

And ranks with the leading journals which are thoroughly awake to all that is going on. Its News Department is always large and full, its editorials are written with a purpose in view. Its Market Reports and Commercial News give startling and reliable facts of the most exacting demands of the business public.

IT IS A PROSPEROUS AND GROWING PAPER.

Having from the start gone ahead, outstripping older occupants of the field of journalism; and to-day attained to a position unequaled to exert an influence second to no paper in the State. That it has fairly won the rank of the first paper in Pennsylvania is the verdict of newspaper readers in general.

IT IS A POWERFUL INFLUENCE,

It being read more generally than any other Pittsburgh paper by the business, professional and thinking classes. It is always found where the latest and fullest news is sought, and an independent paper prized,—in Banking Houses, Counting Rooms and the Family Circle, where it is welcomed as a business and intellectual necessity, and where its influence is constant and increasing.

ITS PAST COURSE IS ITS BEST RECOMMENDATION,

And it is felt that there is no necessity for indulging in new professions or making fresh promises. It means, while adhering to its standard in politics and morals, to improve as it progresses, and omit nothing that will add to its strength or increase its usefulness.

THE NEXT YEAR.

THE COMMERCIAL enters on another year strong and hopeful, and with a deliberate purpose consistent with what has been said above. And it does not hesitate to ask the co-operation of all who approve of that purpose. No hesitation is felt in saying that it desires this support in increasing its circulation and enlarging the sphere of its usefulness. The season is at hand when Congress and the Legislature will be in session, and stirring events in both the National and State Capital will be transpiring. The important work that will mid administration of General Grant will soon be before the country—embracing questions of the deepest interest to every reader and tax-payer. The State Legislature, also, will present matters of interest. Abroad, the signs are animating; and at home in the field of politics, popular movements relating to education and religious questions are not wanting, of which no one should permit himself to be ignorant, and concerning which all that is essential to be known will be the aim of the COMMERCIAL to give.

TERMS.

Daily paper, $10 per year; $5 for six months; $2 50 for three months.

The Weekly Commercial

IS A

Large 36 Column Newspaper,

CONTAINING FEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Its Ample Columns contain a complete compendium of the NEWS OF THE WEEK, the Leading Editorials from the Daily, and the

FOREIGN AND HOME MARKETS,

Carefully Reported and Corrected expressly for the WEEKLY, up to the day of each issue.

IT IS EMPHATICALLY

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

TERMS:—$2 00 per year, (invariably in advance). In Clubs of Twenty, $1 50. Specimen Copies sent free. Send for Catalogue containing Liberal Premiums.

In making remittances for subscriptions, always procure a draft on Pittsburgh, or a Postoffice Money Order, if possible, as neither of these can be procured, send the money, *but always in a* REGISTERED *letter. The* registration fee has been reduced to *Five cents*, and the present registration system has been found by the express entities to be virtually an absolute protection against losses by mail. *All* Postmasters are obliged to register letters whenever required to do so.

Address,

THE COMMERCIAL,

Pittsburgh, Penna.

THE PROPOSED THEOLOGICAL AMENDMENT.

All persons interested in the subject, doubtless carefully read the proceedings of the Theological Amendment Convention, reported in our issues of Friday and Saturday. By considerable numbers, in parts of the country remote from one another, the action of this Convention was looked forward to with decided interest. To very many persons the general object avowedly aimed at by the men prominent in this movement, presents itself as a matter of living import to be instantly approved or instantly rejected. By a much greater number it is viewed as a subject invested with more than ordinary historical significance. The mere terms unavoidably employed in its discussion suggest memorable conflicts, struggles, sufferings and triumphs of humanity in the past. Then again, probably not a few may sincerely approve the measure proposed, and yet, warned by the teaching of history, may dread the consequences of the ultimate logical and practical development of the principle involved in it. Surely it is neither just nor charitable to assume that the leading friends of this amendment desire a union of church and state in this country. But is not the desired addition to the Constitution a clear recognition of the principle upon which such a union has always rested? Is it not probable that the fathers of the Constitution avoided the admission of the principle into that instrument because they foresaw and feared the practical results of its evolution? Only on this supposition are we able to reconcile their public actions with their known private opinions, only in this way can we account for the absence from our organic law of a principle which under strict limitations we know to have been dear to a majority of the statesmen of the Revolution. But

"To know
Both spiritual power and civil, what each means,
What severs each."

Those great men had learned, and under the impression of fresh traditions of ancestral persecution and with deep convictions of the evils of secular sway over souls, they seem to have deliberately left out of the Constitution a principle susceptible of an interpretation and application injurious to the utmost spiritual freedom. Time has justified their wisdom. With all our vices and shortcomings, in no other Christian land has religion such power over the hearts of men, as has been secured under our "godless Constitution."

An objection to the agitation of the proposed amendment that strikes many, we doubt not, with much force, is its probable perpetuity. The recognition of "God in Christ" in the Constitution would seem to many grossly defective. We may not reasonably hesitate to assume that a fuller statement of Christian theology would be demanded and might properly become the subject of popular appeals and an object to be gained by persistent endeavor in all the modes by which objects are gained in a democracy. It is quite certain that even the incorporation of the Apostles' Creed in our fundamental law would not satisfy all. The adoption of the Athanasian symbol might be urged next.

There are, we think, sufficient indications that the movement which has begun is likely to become the subject of widely-spread and earnest discussion. Those abstract principles which underlie all government will be illustrated and debated—and as the result, clear and well defined views of the relation between religion and government, between civil and spiritual power, will, in many minds, take the place of blind assent, or of vague and erroneous images. In this way, and in other ways, good may flow from the agitation. In the convention which met in Pittsburgh, last week, the proceedings were marked by quiet earnestness and dignity. Several of the speeches made were very eloquent, and evidently the product of much thought. The tone and tenor of the resolutions adopted and the addresses delivered, and the ecclesiastical relations of many of the persons conspicuous in these preliminary proceedings, indicate a very broad Christian movement. It evidently comprehends the so-called liberal, or heterodox, as well as the Orthodox sects. On the other hand, among the prominent public instructors and leaders of the people who have declared themselves either indifferent or hostile to the movement, are men of equally various denominations.

THE TREASURY INVESTIGATION.

The refusal of General IRWIN to be sworn before the Treasury Investigation Committee, probably indicates the policy determined on by his predecessors in office who had been subpœnaed. The reasons stated by the General for his inability to give monthly statements of the condition of the Treasury during his term of office, strike us as well founded and satisfactory. He kept no separate accounts, and on retiring from his office transferred all the records to his successor. His reasons for declining to be sworn may be good enough in law, but his course will disappoint very many, who are desirous of knowing the details of the management of the State funds. We presume that we shall be justified in saying that the silence of Mr. MACKEY's predecessors should be taken to mean just what his silence has been universally interpreted to mean, to wit: that for a period running back farther than the knowledge of any living man who ever filled the office, the practice of the State Treasurer has rendered the law relating to the unexpended balance a nullity—a practice about which, down to Mr. MACKEY's time, little was said and in which there was pretty general acquiescence. This is the interpretation, it is the confession, and it is the proof which has been sought for, that the present system must be reformed; not only because it was corrupting at Harrisburg and in our politics in many ways, but would sometime or other entail loss on the State.

Touching the present investigation, it strikes us that the Committee commenced wrong. On the instant when they were appointed they should have taken charge of the books and the assets of the Treasury, and, with the assistance of experts, made a thorough overhauling of its management. This, probably, would have resulted in important disclosures affecting the very points on which officials are reticent, and, besides, would have made an opening for the introduction of valuable testimony from bank officers and others.

But the investigation will not be fruitless. It will abundantly sustain the allegations of the friends of retrenchment and reform that the unexpended balance has been used for years by State Treasurers for purposes of private advantage. This was the main point to be established. The facts being admitted, it is now the duty of the Legislature to apply the remedy.

The COMMERCIAL from the start has maintained the existence of an enormous wrong in the unexpended balance. Its position has been sustained and fortified as completely by the positive refusal of officials to testify as by the direct evidence obtained. Individuals are as nothing. The great principle to be established is the sanctity of the public funds from purposes of private speculation and the utter demolition of "Treasury rings" present or prospective. This, we think, will be done before the Legislature adjourns; and it will be a great good accomplished, even if we are deprived of reading interesting disclosures as to the manner in which the people have been fleeced in the past.

A word in conclusion: General IRWIN was a most efficient agent in smashing the CAMERON Treasury ring. Good care, we may be sure, will be taken that no other is established on its ruins.

IN MR. BURLINGAME'S last speech, his remarks when received by the Russian Emperor, he spoke of the autocrat's able representative at Pekin, Gen. VLANGOLI, as having by "a policy of equity and conciliation contributed to inspire China with the wish to enter into the family of nations." It is worth remembering that, through this conciliatory course, Russia has long enjoyed advantages in China denied to other "foreign devils." But it must also be recollected that, in former years, the Russian policy of conciliation, involved a sacrifice of personal dignity and self-respect on the part of the Czar's representatives, such as no Englishman, Frenchman or American of ambassadorial rank could ever have been induced to make for any material advantages. In later time, as the result of English and French self-assertion among the Celestials, even Russian representatives have not found it necessary to vilipend themselves in the ancient way. And General VLANGOLI must have found *his* task of conciliation comparatively easy. The CZAR, in his reply to MR. BURLINGAME, referred to him as "the citizen of a State especially sympathetic with Russia." This sentence reminds us of a passage in an article upon "American claims on England," in the late *Westminster Review*. The author is Mr. W. F. RAE, who recently traveled through this country. He says:

"It would be absurd to suppose that individually the American and Russian people cherish affection for one another. A citizen who should enter a ruler and a subject who does his despot's bidding cannot have much in common. But the Americans should be so tolerant as they are towards a grinding despotism like that of Russia is for the present Government and for the advantages to be gained by the cultivation of amicable relations between Jersey Government and our own. *When official dispatches are filled with compliments, instead of bad feeling there is reason for trusting.* If the official relations between us and the Americans resembled those between her and Russia, American newspapers would be edited very differently in language when discussing English affairs. The anxiety would then be as great to foster peace as is the desire now displayed to pick a quarrel."

—This sounds very much like a platitude, and certainly does not express a correct view of the case. No compliments in official dispatches would be regarded as indemity for years of unfriendly action—and Russia's compliments have always been accompanied with or followed by acts of friendship.

THE debt statement for February, just published by Secretary BOUTWELL, shows a reduction of the public debt for the month of February of nearly six and a half millions of dollars. This month completes the first year of General GRANT's administration, and the figures show that the reduction of the debt in that time has been eighty-eight millions of dollars. The saving in interest per annum on this amount of indebtedness is about five and a quarter millions of dollars. This is something remarkable, when it is considered that a general reorganization had first to be made by President GRANT of all the working machinery employed by the Treasury Department in the collection of the internal and external revenues, and in the disbursement thereof. The advantages to the country of this reorganization may be judged from the late exhibit of MR. DAWES to the people of New Hampshire, from which it appears that while under the last year of JOHNSON's administration the expenditures of the Treasury exceeded the receipts by six millions, we have under the first year of GRANT's retrenchments and more careful system of revenue collections eighty millions beyond current expenses saved and devoted to the payment of the debt.

A FEW days ago a New York journal contained a good natured fling at Pennsylvania literature. "Mediocrity is its most striking characteristic," it seems. Some compensation is, however, allowed the State in the possession of JERRY BLACK, who is described as "an exceptionally brilliant rhetorician." In the way of comfort under disparagement, another New York paper states that of the sixteen gentlemen appointed to examine and arrange the collections in natural history made by a scientific expedition in South America, eight were of Philadelphia, which city the writer acknowledges as the center of natural science in this country.

THE reports from Cuba, not well authenticated it is true, represent the rebellion if not in a positively failing condition, yet not actively advancing—not so much, however, from any really important successes by the Spaniards as want of means for the active prosecution of the war by the insurgents. Such are the representations from Cuba at the moment when the news from Spain is of a character which renders it entirely certain that the home government is in the greatest straight for means wherewith to fight the rebellion in the Island. It seems difficult to determine which has the better prospect, the rebellion or the home government, whose efforts to crush it have been strangely in contrast with its high sounding proclamations and confident promises. If this is the moment of doubt and weakness with the Spaniards—the moment when the supporters of the cause of Cuba should use every effort to continue the struggle. It is more a question of time and endurance than of active military operations. In Spain we are assured the greatest difficulty is experienced in carrying on the Government, so alarmingly increased have the expenses become. At the same time the political situation is daily growing more threatening, rendering an early and violent change and the supremacy of the Republican idea altogether probable. At such a moment the sympathies of this country are becoming more and more enlisted on the side of the struggling Cubans, and the wish for some step by our government in their behalf stronger every day. It is not to be disguised that the policy of our Government does not please the people.

MR. JUSTIN MCCARTHY, the well known author and journalist, an Irishman, has lately visited California, where he seems to have been at some pains to study the Chinese, at least those of the mercantile class. He says:

"I am bound to say that I did not, in any instance, during my stay in San Francisco, hear a native American speak with harshness or aversion of the Chinese. The general opinion of genuine Americans seemed to say: The Chinese are good fellows enough. We want their labor; and if they stay among us, and really desire the suffrage by and by, why, they must have it."

From MR. MCCARTHY's statement it would appear that the Irish are the only people to whom the presence of the Chinese is a grievance. With one of his countrymen, a hotel waiter, he remonstrated against his hostility to them, but without much effect:

"I endeavored to argue the point, dwelling especially on the facts that planters in Cuba were making demand with very good grace any measure to exclude foreigners, and that Cuba was, politically, a pretty live majesty in the scorn with which he repudiated any analogy between ourselves and the Mongolians. 'Sir,' said he, 'we made the country and it is ours!'"

Among the Chinese merchants with whom MR. MCCARTHY became acquainted, were two brothers, well educated and familiar with two or three Western languages. One of them had lived in Melbourne, Australia, and spoke with—

"Warmth and energy of the freedom accorded to the Chinese in Melbourne. There they might live and go as he pleased, where he pleased, unmolested. No rabble pursued him, no one insulted him, no epithets to him; he was under no necessity of living in his quiet corner and avoiding the gaze of the street. anybody else, and no one thought of molesting or even mocking him. But in San Francisco he was the shrugged his shoulders with an expressiveness which made one think of Faubourg St. Germain.'

It is not pleasant to read such a contrast between an English colonial city and an American city, and when we remember that Irish abound in the former as in the latter place, we cannot fail to ask for the cause of the difference. One is not willing to believe that Americans regard the oppression of the weak and meek with less indignation, or less promptitude of interference than Englishmen.

MR. MCCARTHY also informs us that he was assured that the Chinese are not anxious to remain isolated as a class, that they are not indifferent to the question of citizenship, and that they are beginning more and more to think themselves entitled to ask for the protection of the franchise.

IF distresses us to be called on to add, what we did not know last week in giving the particulars of the loss of the Oneida, that Lieutenant Commander W. F. STEWART, whose name is included in the list of those who perished, was the son of the Hon. ANDREW STEWART, of Uniontown; and to this we have to add that Engineer J. W. PHELAN, also lost, was son of the Hon. JOHN PHELAN, of Waynesburg. They graduated from Annapolis early in the war, and served honorably to its close.

WE are told that the ill-fated Oneida was nearly destitute of small boats, because after her outfit was carried away in a recent gale permission to procure new ones had been refused. Now to whom runs back the dreadful dereliction? The country will require to be told. The last words of the lamented Captain WILLIAMS: "I asked for boats and they were not allowed me," constitute a terrible indictment of the officials on whom the responsibility shall be found to rest.

THE Pittsburgh, Virginia and Charleston Railway project is exciting great interest among the people of West Virginia living near the proposed route. Meetings were held in three townships of Monongalia county last week, at all of which resolutions were adopted favoring the enterprise and promising to raise their quota of the capital needed whenever the company was organized, the building of the road commenced, and assurances given that it will be completed.

As the time approaches for the trial of Daniel McFarland for killing Richardson, public interest is revived in his case. The counsel for the defense are Messrs. Graham, Evarts, Spencer and Eldridge T. Gerry. The prosecution will, of course, be conducted by Judge Garvin, the district attorney. The evidence thus far taken in preliminary examinations by the prisoner's counsel has been very voluminous. An immense number of private examinations have been made, and the investigation has extended over a very large range of topics and of years. It will be a long, protracted one, and it is stated by one of the counsel that it will occupy a month.

THE first annual meeting of the United States Inspection and Steam Navigation's Mutual Life Insurance Association, will be held in Crosby's Music Hall, Chicago, on the 5th and 6th of May. A delegate from every railroad in the country is expected to be in attendance. The object of the association is the benefit of the mother, sisters, widow or children of any member who may become deceased; the extent of the benefit being a subscription of fifty cents from each member, to be paid to his heirs within twenty days after death.

THERE were several negro members in the National Assembly of France no longer ago than the time of the last Republic. In Brazil, the great Empire of South America, there is no caste based upon color or race—that the jet black Senator sits by the side of the white one on terms of perfect equality in the highest branch of the National Legislature. In most of the Spanish American Republics and West India Islands the negro enjoys citizenship upon the same terms and conditions as the descendant of Spain.

MR. CESSNA will to-day introduce a resolution directing the Military Committee to inquire how C. A. Stedman, of Boston, got into the West Point Academy, and J. P. Kunhardt into the Naval Academy. They were appointed by Mr. Coffroth, the Democratic predecessor of Mr. Cessna, and are said to have been nominated by corrupt means. The House resolution under which the committee are acting does not allow them to investigate Coffroth's action unless they are more particularly instructed to do so.

THE balance of trade against this country for the closing half of 1868 was $24,129,049, in a total exportation of $153,850,080. The balance for the corresponding half of the present financial year is only $1,978,264, in an exportation of $199,224,111. The specie balance against the country also shows an improvement of $6,374,607. The trade carried on in American ships in the former term covered merchandise valued at $125,756,905, and in the latter $156,255,216, a gain of $30,478,313.

A STATEMENT of the gold coinage of the world, shows that out of $940,000,000 of gold which the United States Mint has coined since 1792, $640,000,000 have been coined since 1850, out of £320,000,000 of gold issued by the British mint since 1603, £115,000,000 have been coined since 1850; since 1726 the French mint has coined 10,800,000,000 francs, 6,000,000,000 of which have been issued since 1850; since 1664 Russia has coined 626,000,000 roubles in gold, of which 360,000,000 have been issued since 1850.

THE male citizens of Zanesville, Ohio, have petitioned the Legislature that women may be invested with all the rights of citizenship, and also with all its duties; namely—that they be liable to military, jury and road duty, available for their own and their husband's debts; and that if a woman refuse or neglect to provide for the support of her husband and family, a divorce shall be granted, awarding alimony to the husband.

MR. A. T. STEWART, the merchant prince, is said to be the object of a great deal of harsh criticism by the merchants of New York, in consequence of his persistent and vigorous efforts to break down the market for both cotton and woolen goods. The impression is that the present course, it is predicted that he will ruin a large number of the small dealers. Mr. Stewart, however, says he is determined to bring prices down to where they should be.

WEST VIRGINIA proposes to amend her Constitution enfranchising the ex-rebels as well as the negroes. The resolutions passed both Houses by a large majority, but before it can become a part of the Constitution it has to be concurred in by the Legislature next winter, and then submitted to the people in October, 1871, so that under it the enfranchised ex-confederates will first vote in October, 1872.

NOT only will the political complexion of Kentucky be affected by the Fifteenth Amendment, but that of Delaware also. Before the amendment the Democratic majority was small, which the 4,000 colored voters in the State will cause to disappear.

IT is said that Admiral Porter is to have his anomalous connection with the Navy Department severed by a request from Secretary Robeson, who, the report is, has wearied with the partnership in its management. Some think that this news is too good to be true.

THE New York gold gamblers evidently think their vocation is approaching an end. A year ago membership of the Gold Room ring cost $3,000; now seats are a drug in the market, and considered dear at $750.

THE "POST" AND PURITANISM.

Why France was Infidel and England Deluged in Blood.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The *Post*, in its leader on the 2d Convention, in session Thursday and Friday, in this city, takes occasion to air its views of Puritanism, which was one form of Protestantism, and may it is a very legitimate object of attack in the *Catholic*.

"France," we are told by the *Post*, "became a nation of infidels, and England was deluged in blood, by reason of the attempt to make the people subscribe to the creeds and dogmas set up by political preachers." We have not so read history. The cruel persecutions by the Romish Church, culminating in the awful massacre of St. Bartholomew and the dragoonades of Louis XIV., added to the Godless lives of the higher dignitaries of the Romish Church, it has always appeared to us, made France infidel; and England was made subject to the deluge the *Post* speaks of, by bloody Mary and the fires of Smithfield.

When the Romish Church can point to one solitary country on the whole face of the earth where it has the power, and accorded freedom of conscience, then may its disciples preach to Protestants about freedom. We do not favor bigotry for, or bigotry against Rome; we are opposed to the objects of the assembly in question, but we protest that the *Post* should abstain from its frequent flings against every shade of Protestantism, or it will be generally regarded as more sectarian than political.

A PROTESTANT DEMOCRAT.

Qualifications for Office in Virginia.

The qualifications for office differ in some States from others. For instance, in reconstructed Virginia, Richard C. Marshall is a candidate before the Legislature for superintendent of Public Institutions, and prominently presented among his qualifications is the following: "Having entered the army as a volunteer under the gallant Ashby early in the war, he served faithfully as a private soldier until the surrender at Appomattox, except for the time that he was disabled by a severe wound. It is further urged that "if selected he will be, if indeed not already, the only one of the first of the descendants of the late renowned Chief Justice Marshall, who have ever received any appointment at the hands of the Legislature of Virginia."

IN the testimony as to the Gold Panic, published in yesterday's COMMERCIAL, there is frequent reference to a letter written by President Grant to Secretary Boutwell, last September. The letter itself is the best vindication possible of the President. It is as follows:

NEW YORK CITY, September 12, 1868.—Hon. George S. Boutwell, Secretary of the Treasury—Dear sir:—I have been requested to call upon the Assistant Treasurer, and will not reach Washington this afternoon as I expected. As he was doing business in the name of Brown Brothers, he could not see the consistency of his wife being interested in Baring Brothers.

SONG.

Sweetly!
She is lying
With her head apart
Softly!
She is lying
Of a broken heart.

Whisper!
She is going
To her final rest.
Whisper softly!
Life is growing
Dim within her breast.

Gently!
She is sleeping;
She has breathed her last.
Gently!
While you're weeping,
She to heaven has passed.

—*Charles G. Eastman.*

A "Whisper Song" imparts some useful information:

"Hist!—That noise!—What was it?
See, there's a ghost in the closet
And under the table, look!
Don't you see that creeping spook?
Hist!—Hist!—Hist!—Hist!
The devil is hiding there!"

Most people, we fancy, will take good care that such rhymes are kept in the nurseries of such rhymes for several years after they have left the nursery forever.

THE New York *Sun* makes the horrible calamity on the Oneida the occasion for severe remarks on the conduct of the captain of the Bombay, and the demand for exhibition of statistics by the maritime nations, declaring "the prejudicial indifference of one colliding vessel to the other to be piracy, and its punishment death by hanging." "We speak from knowledge," says the *Sun*, "when we say that these are high words. We speak from knowledge when we say that probably the United States furnishes an unduly large proportion of them." "We must not," continues the *Sun*, "in the conclusion of the captain of the Bombay before his side of the story reaches us. Yet we can safely assert that whether he heard the hailing and the five great guns, or heard them not, has no bearing on the case. It is sufficient that the collision was of such violence enough to let starlight through her, and that he stood on his course without knowing whether she needed help."

PERSONS neither connoisseurs nor practically skilled in painting and sculpture are sometimes much puzzled to know how the artist succeeds in imparting to his figures, more particularly such contrasts of expression to the eyes of his figures. A gentleman who, not long ago, enjoyed the pleasure of an interview with our great American painter, Hiram Powers, in his studio at Florence, made this difficulty the subject of inquiry. Pointing to the model of the Greek Slave, and contrasting it with that of Venetia, he asked how it was that the eyes, made by which love, anger, hatred, jealousy, joy, &c., were made to look out from eyes wrought in colorless marble. In reply, Mr. Powers said there was no secret about it. The expression is not so entirely in the eye as you imagine. The expression comes from the lines around the eye. A calf's eye in the head of a lion would have the expression of a lion's eye."

A GRAND tournament is announced at Niagara Falls the coming season. It has already been announced that arrangements have been effected between the St. John's Paris crew and the Champion crew of England, from Newcastle upon-Tyne, to row a four-oared race at Lachine, near Montreal, for $5,000, next July, and the Lachine Times says that the Paris tournament expect these two crews will take part; they are also in correspondence with the Harvard crew, and hope to secure their attendance. It is even intimated that the return match for the Harvards and Oxfords may possibly be rowed on the waters of the Niagara during this tournament. Sailing and rowing races on the river will be made up for each day of the tournament, and liberal prizes offered. A great many other things are included in the programme, such as fencing, cricketing, base ball, promenade ball, etc., etc., all for the benefit of the hotels.

The New York, Newfoundland and London Telegraph Company has brought suit under date, in the Court of Claims, against the United States for sending five dispatches in "code or cipher," from Hon. W. H. Seward, Secretary of State, to the British and French Ministers from the United States, as follows:

November 24, 1865, Seward to Bigelow	$12,540 80
November 30, 1866, Seward to Bigelow	3,000 25
May 13, 1867, Seward to Adams	2,975 25
May 13, 1867, Seward to Adams	4,359 00
Total in gold	$22,875 75

The worst of it is that this costly correspondence not only amounted to nothing but placed matters further from a settlement than they were before.

IT is gravely asserted that a genuine plan is on foot in Canada to make Prince Arthur King, and that his present visit and all his goings and comings are managed with such a view. It is asserted that the "loyal mind of British America is now ripe for the change. In fact, a radical revolution will very soon come unless a graceful concession be made in time. Already the *Post* speaks of the Democratic representatives, are heartily sick of the prolonged suspense that has attended the confederation movement; and now that the plan is likely to prove a complete failure, through the manipulations and intrigues of selfish and designing politicians, they are seriously contemplating a final change."

ONE of the resolutions passed at the recent meeting of colored citizens of Wilmington, Delaware, is especially worthy of publication. It is a very brief and pointed declaration of an old and noble purpose. We pronounce it thus, and state, at the same time, our perfect conviction of the sincerity and good faith of those who adopted it. After returning thanks to Congress, the Legislatures, &c., for enfranchising them, the meeting

Resolved, That we hereby pledge to them to prove to the world that the trust by the world is not misplaced. That realizing the responsibilities resting upon us, we mean to use the ballot for no merely narrow ends, but for the best good of the State and nation, thereby adding to perpetuity a Union which our fathers and their fathers, their brothers and our brothers, together helped to save.

THE people of Prussia are tired of maintaining a large army. They declare that such a policy is detrimental to the industrial progress which that country would otherwise make. The annual reports of different Chambers of Commerce in Prussia, all show that the stagnation in business which began in 1866, when Prussia made war upon Austria, still continues, and must increase as long as the large standing armies are maintained.

IT is reported that the President has said that he will probably send to the Senate the name of Mr. Charles H. Lewis, of Buckingham county, Virginia, as Minister to Portugal. Mr. Lewis was State Treasurer of Virginia during the latter years of the war under Governor Pierpont. It is understood that Secretary Fish has expressed himself as favorable to the nomination of Mr. Lewis.

The Springfield, (Mass.) *Republican* tells a sad story about a young man who, while with some companions examining a safe, entered it and closed the door. "But the lock sprung to its place and the poor youth was buried alive. The man who had the key was two miles distant, and the immured would die in five minutes. Hammers and chisels were brought into use and the door opened, and the almost dead man crawled out of his too safe retreat."

IN the New York Legislature is a proposition to transfer the surplus funds held by saving banks, and deposits remaining unclaimed for a certain period, to the State Treasury—surplus funds are to be devoted to the building of the Capital, and the unclaimed deposits are to be held in trust for future rightful applicants. Something like this has more than once been attempted, but without success.

GROUND was broken last week on the Butler end of the railroad between that town and Freeport, and the work is progressing as rapidly as possible.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

BY SECRET.

Bend your heads, ye tall trees, above:
Listen, O lilies, to words of love—
He's mine forever—my love, my love!
My secrets of secrets now he shall know,
Gaily rustle the leaves as I pass;
All the blossoms smile in the grass;
Carol the birds upon every bough:
"Happy," they all say—"happy art thou."

Dear little birds thrown out all the land,
Ye will tell this story of mine e'er long,
But none will be able to understand;
Ye will only say "love" is the song;
And the flowers will whisper my tale to-night
To the fairies that come in the clear moonlight;
And the leaves will murmur it soft and low
To the summer winds that among them go.

Object, will you leave us when the days are cold?
Will the flowers wither the leaves fall sere?
Little brook, will the frost your waves enfold?
Will the earth be sad, as it was last year?
To the world shall winter come by and by,
But when leaves and flowers shall fall and when flow rardie,
And the woodland singers are over the sea,
This summer time shall in my heart shall be.

A year ago the Spanish Government sold a loan of fifty millions of dollars for seven millions, and of this only one-quarter has ever been paid up, and since then the current revenue of Spain has not paid one-half of the current expenses. The people do not pay their taxes, and the agents and servants of the Government are not paid. Among all the branches of the public service the army alone gets any money, and even its pay is heavily in arrears.

At the Ritualistic (Episcopal) Chapel of St. Albans, there are various new developments of a kind to start an inquiry on the part of the low churchmen, whether the present Bishop of London's last ordination Church of Rome, will continue much longer to exist. Rev. Dr. Noyes officiated.

The sale of ice on the Isthmus of Panama is a monopoly, for which the Panama Railroad Company has just contracted to pay to the Columbian Government $275 a month for the term of three years. The use of ice has become absolutely necessary on the Isthmus, and the right to supply this has been sold by the Government at auction, and the premium was raised from $200 a month under the previous contract to $275.

The Connecticut Republican Convention passed the following resolution with reference to the tariff: "*Resolved*, That we favor a tariff abundant for revenue, and as far as possible so devised as to relieve labor, equalize the burdens imposed, encourage a diversified industry and avoid strengthening monopolies. We deprecate frequent changes in tariff legislation as deranging the calculations of capital and inflicting unforseen suffering upon labor."

Emperor Napoleon generally goes hunting every Saturday this winter, in a royal carriage-chaise, with a jolly party of twelve or fourteen gentlemen, and one or two of his private police. He may be seen driving in the Bois de Boulogne, apparently free from care, on any pleasant day.

Mr. Brown, of the celebrated banking house of Brown Brothers, was at one time blessed by his wife with twin boys. He said this somewhat perplexed his relations. As he (Brown) was doing business in the name of Brown Brothers, he could not see the consistency of his wife being interested in Baring Brothers.

A "bloated British barristocrat" just arrived seeing an immense amount of fun, and bunting displayed from the roofs of the houses, the other day, adjusted his "hi glass" and scrutinizingly inquired of a bystander, "My dess fella, aw! aw! what's all this? Is there a cock fight flyin' from the 'owzes for?" A newsboy standing near "was on the lay" for the "blarsted scion of aristocracy," answered: "Oh, this is Birthington's wedding, and they are having the linin he wore and 'fit' in, in the Revolution."

A Minnesota lumber merchant having displayed in a Pittsburgh newspaper an advertisement announcement that the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher had enjoyed his treatment, that gentleman annihilates him with: a very warm letter, denying that he ever put his name to any such. I regard your action toward me as an imperinence, and your treatment of the public as deliberate swindle. If you will put pen of your trusses upon your own mouth, we shall have a sweet cheek. I know of no rupture so eminent and disgusting."

A remarkable case of the power of emotions upon the physical system has lately been brought to our notice. Some time last July, residing in the family of Mr. D. H. Smith, the well-known reaper man of Sparta, Illinois, in a violent fit of anger suddenly lost her voice, and from that time to the present has been totally unable to utter a word. Several physicians were called in, but their remedies were in vain, and the case was pronounced hopeless. Recently, during the absence of the entire family, except the girl, the house took fire, doing damage to perhaps the extent of a hundred dollars. The girl naturally much alarmed and excited, but since that time she has recovered her voice, and to-day speaks as fluently and readily as ever.

Mr. Fechter performed thirty-six nights to houses averaging nightly $1,821, making:

Total receipts	$65,556
Paid Mr. Fechter, at the rate of $500 per week	19,440
Average expenses of theater (nightly)	1,500
Paid Mr. Fechter, 5 per cent.	3,278
Total for thirty-six nights	$25,488
	$40,068
Profit to management	$29,373

The New York *Times* says: "Is there no shame in our judiciary? Two days ago one of its members said from the bench that 'it was curious, while every one said he was for salvation, how few were willing to pay for it in all their cases.' Yesterday, again, he stated that he sent a reference to his friend, a speech which pleased him, to the Judge who was to sit before him, and his own, in such a joke more intelligible than to the Judge or bar."

Disraeli, in a recent speech, said Englishmen should be "glad to admit, and proud to remember, that it can never be said of the American Republic that it ever so far tolerated or encouraged the Fenian conspiracy," and that the conduct of this Government through all the Fenian troubles, has been "been marked by a spirit of order and the utmost political integrity."

"You are a poet, sir," says *Harper* for March, "the individual who is always dilatory in making the responses? He is usually to be found in every Episcopal parish, much to the annoyance of the quiet, orderly people who unfortunately are compelled to ask him. A man of this sort was one of the most regular (such always are regular) attendants at St. ——'s, Philadelphia; and so 'worrifing' had his drawling habit become that the rest of the parishioners called upon the rector and requested him to 'speak to Mr. Snooks,' and request him to make the responses in unison with the rest of the brethren. 'O you see, my dear sir,' said the rector, 'it is easy enough to be prompt if you will but fix your mind upon it. If you begin the Confession with the congregation you will easily end with the others. Then, again, if at the Creed you commence: 'I believe,' and go through promptly, why, then your time you will be able to 'descend into hell' with the rest of the congregation. My dear sir, only pray be a little more prompt, and do this!'"

THE railroad companies and the warehouse men of the West have made common cause to plunder the public by a tax on bread. We learn by the Chicago *Tribune* that certain railroads have refused to take up a bushel of grain at any point where there is an elevator unless the grain passes through that elevator and pays its toll; in other cases the railroads refuse to take grain from one point to another unless warehouse rates are paid to the elevators in the towns through which the trains may pass; nor will these roads deliver any grain to consignees unless it first passes through some warehouse of the combination. The railroads and warehouses have combined to regulate the price of grain. In other words, turned grain speculators. It seems that the day is rapidly approaching when it will be necessary for national legislation regulating commerce between the States. No single State can reach the evil, although the Illinois Constitutional Convention is trying its best.

THE report of the Chief of the Steamboat Inspection Division of the Treasury Department, has been issued, giving the following information relative to the loss of steamers, life and property throughout the United States during the year 1869: Explosions, 11; steamers lost by fire, 39; collisions of a serious character, 24; steamers lost by wreck and foundering, 28; steamers lost by snags and other obstructions, 36; lives lost, 563; amount of property lost, $3,434,000. Of this amount there were lost on the western waters, 51 steamers, 340 lives and $1,848,450 worth of property.

IN printing a paragraph concerning an earthquake shock in California, which startled a congregation while they were singing "Rock of Ages," the authorship of the hymn was credited to Watts, instead of Toplady. Toplady was a Calvinist minister, and a theologian of no mean ability. His hymn "Rock of Ages" has been translated by Gladstone and other distinguished linguists into Latin and Greek, the latest translation into Latin appearing in a late number of Lippincott's Magazine.

Europe contains 70,718 miles of railway, composed of 150,000,000 cwt. of iron rails which 400,000 passenger carriages and 600,000 baggage cars are dragged by 18,000 locomotives, over 52,000 bridges and through 34 miles of tunnels, at the rate of 400,000,000 per annum, with a consumption of 4,000,000 tons of coal.

The following are the names of the four men who took passage in a small boat on the Panama No. 3, to cut wood at Gayoso Landing: C. M. Enolds, of Illinois; P. B. McEwen, Jas. Cameron and James Stratford. Enolds and McEwen were drowned. The latter lived in Memphis. Cameron and Stratford escaped and returned to this city.

THE sale of medical diplomas is the raging scandal in Philadelphia. The *Evening Star* of Wednesday says truly: "The sale of medical diplomas, like